

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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SAVED by His Life

by the late H. A. Ironside, Litt. D.
Long Pastor of the Moody Memorial Church
Chicago, Illinois

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."—Rom. 5:10.

It is not the entire verse I am thinking of tonight so much as the last four words, "saved by His life." What are we to understand by this expression? Certainly the verse itself and the entire context makes it very plain that it is through the death of Christ our sins are put away. It is His precious atoning blood that cleanses us from all sin, thus purging our guilty consciences. It is through the work of His cross that we have peace with God; and yet here the apostle declares, "We shall be saved by his life."

Let us first consider what these words do not mean. "Saved by his life" does not imply that salvation comes through seeking to imitate the beautiful, holy life of our blessed Lord. Let me say it seriously, earnestly, following Jesus will not save any one. Often the Christless are earnestly exhorted to begin the Christian life by taking up their cross and endeavoring to follow Jesus in order that they might be saved. But this is a travesty of the Gospel. No one was ever saved by imitating the life of Jesus or attempting to do

so. His life was an absolutely holy life. There was not one thought or act that did not have the Father's approbation. He said with (Continued on page 8)



Dr. H. A. Ironside

The Fall of a Preacher

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me."—Luke 22:31-34.

The Gospels tell in shocking detail the story of how Peter denied the Saviour, cursed and swore and quit the ministry. Fifteen verses are given to the story in Matthew, fifteen in Mark, fifteen in Luke, and ten in John. John 21 is given to the restoration of Peter to fellowship and service. It is a sad story, but a story full of meaning to every Christian. And, bless God, it has a good ending!

I. The Momentous Meaning of Peter's Downfall

The story of Peter's sad failure is told in such detail, with some fifty-two verses recounting it, it seems obvious that God meant for Christians to pay particular attention to this tragic case. It is especially striking that right in the midst of the story of the greatest tragedy of all time, the trial and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, a great space should be given to Peter's lying and cursing and denying the Saviour. Consider how important then is the inspired story of Peter's downfall.

1. Peter's Case Is Not an Isolated, Not an Unusual One

If you have any system of doctrine or theology that counts Christians sinless and blameless people, then when you read the

Bible you had better revise your thinking in line with revealed facts. The fact that Peter sinned, that he was untrue, that he was cowardly, that he slipped back into the profane language which doubtless he used before he was saved, the fact that he in deep discouragement quit the ministry, this does not picture a man different from other men whose lives are told in the Bible. Peter was not an isolated case of a Christian who sinned. His case, we are sad to say, was not unusual.

Noah got drunk and lay naked in his tent. Abraham's faltering faith for fifty years kept him unready to receive the son that God had promised. Isaac lied about his wife, calling her his sister, following Abraham's pattern. Lot moved into sex-mad Sodom, sold out his testimony, ruined his family for gain. David committed adultery with the wife of his trusting friend Uriah, and then murdered the friend trying to keep the sin secret. The Spirit-filled Samson was trapped by the wiles of wicked Delilah, whom he sinfully loved. John Mark was a quitter. Paul and Silas quarreled over him and broke up their evangelistic party. The Christians at Corinth got drunk at the Lord's Supper. One

of them lived in adultery with his stepmother. Peter and Barnabas and others at Antioch compromised to please the Jews and were rebuked by Paul. Paul in jail was forsaken by the Christian worker Demas, "having loved this present world."

The story of Christians in the Bible is very largely a story of failure, so we cannot say that the sin and failure of Peter is an isolated case.

Hence we must infer that his case is a solemn warning for Christians everywhere. We have the same temptations Peter had.

2. Peter Was the Most Prominent Christian Living in the World When He Fell!

It was sad when Peter fell into sin, failed Christ, and thus brought reproach upon the name of the Lord Jesus. But for Peter it was worse, perhaps, than for anybody else of his day. For Peter was "the first" of the apostles (Matt. 10:2). He is the first one mentioned in every list of these twelve. It was Peter who made the great, inspired confession, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Because of God's plan for him, and the strength of (Continued on page 10)

Prize Winner in Annual

Sword Evangelistic Sermon Contest

The Miracle and the Mystery of the New Birth

By Rev. Walter Hughes, M.B.E., B.A., F.R.G.S.
"Nine Oaks," Ilderton, Ontario, Canada

Author, Bible teacher, Evangelist; Thirteen years pastor of Forward Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada; Army chaplain, twice-wounded veteran of two World Wars; Decorated "for courageous and outstanding service in N. W. Europe"; Graduate of Woodstock Baptist College and Mc Master University

"Ye MUST be born again."—John 3:7.

Harold Begbie, the author of *Twice Born Men*, *Broken Earthenware*, and other books telling the story of redeemed and transformed lives, tells the story of Doctor Blund. Begbie says that Blund, the family physician, was one of the most wicked little men in the black little town of Bartown, in the Old Country. The author says Dr. Blund was so bad that hardly anyone believed in him any more in a professional way except the little browbeaten woman who was his wife. Mrs. Blund kept faithful and never seemed to tire sounding the praises of her husband. Harold Begbie says that Blund spent most of his time in the tavern called *The Angel* (it must have been a fallen angel), drinking gin and playing billiards.

One day the Vicar, Mr. Rodwell, was downtown engaged in conversation with one of the businessmen who was a member of his congregation. They were somehow aware that someone was running down the street, then the preacher

felt someone tugging at his elbow. He turned to look into the hot face of Mrs. Blund. She was all out of breath and excited. When she could regain her composure, she said to the Vicar, "Oh, sir! I have been all over seeking you. You must come to our house. The doctor has sent me for you. He is dying and he wants you to come and talk to him."

Now the preacher didn't like the task to which he was summoned. He knew Blund by reputation. He thought the old man had been on a binge and it was probably "the morning after the night before" and he hadn't had much experience in dealing with men like the old doctor. So he made some excuses about other

engagements. Mrs. Blund persisted, so finally Rodwell went along reluctantly.

As he walked he slipped his hand in his pocket and was glad to discover his prayer book. When he arrived at the sick room and (Continued on page 5)



Dr. Walter Hughes

SEX and the Bible

By Jack Wyrzten, Director
Word of Life Fellowship, Box 511, New York 8, New York

23 short, burning chapters for young people and adults. Warning and instruction; frank, scriptural, reverent, life-changing. Here given in six parts.

INTRODUCTION

BY REV. CHARLES WOODBRIDGE, PH.D.
Statistics do not lie. Moral delinquency in America is on the alarming increase. This is not shallow pessimism. It is sheer realism. Sexual sin is playing havoc with the youth of our fair land. Are we following the lascivious, devastating example of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Four attitudes are possible in this ethical crisis.

One may cheerfully ignore it and spend his time reflecting on the rosy aspects of his contemporary culture. Or he may condone it on the ground that youth will be youth, and that what our fathers used to call sin is actually psychological maladjustment. Or he may recognize it as dangerous but adopt spineless, ineffective methods to combat it: he may appoint committees, issue innocuous manifestos, scold the erring young people mildly and piously urge them to mend their ways.

But there is happily a fourth, biblical attitude.

This is to recognize sin as sin, and vice as vice—a stench in the nostrils of God; to expose it frankly and fearlessly; to caution young people lovingly and intelligently

to beware of its lethal power; and to present the everlasting remedy in the Gospel of the Son of God.

This is precisely what Jack Wyrzten does in this volume.

For twenty years he has been mightily used of God in the conversion of a multitude of youth. In the process he has learned to sympathize with their heartaches, to appreciate their tensions, and to understand their needs.

Jack loves young people; indeed he is devoting his life to aiding them. And because he loves them he covets them for God. He is determined, therefore, to alert them to the subtle, enticing, but devastating appeal of sexual sin—and always against the holy background of the Word of God. He refuses to sugarcoat the facts or varnish the truth. He believes in a two-fisted, straight-shooting, biblical presentation of stern reality, and in a clear, convincing, clarion summons to vital faith in Jesus Christ.

This is the biblical answer to moral truancy. And this is Jack's changeless message.

Some will deem this volume unusually frank. But remember: to (Continued on page 5)



THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

My heart was deeply moved the other day when I read Psalm 69:20. It is an Old Testament prophecy of the Lord Jesus on the cross, a revelation of the heart of God and of the heart of the Lord Jesus. For, we must remember that He was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8). So Jesus not only knew ahead of time about the cross, but He entered into the torments of the crucifixion long before He came to earth to be born of a virgin and minister and die for our sins.

There in Psalm 69:20 the Lord Jesus is pictured as saying, "Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none."

Jesus on the cross could say, "Reproach hath broken my heart." And I felt that in some measure all of us are called to enter into the broken heart of Jesus, as well as the reproach of Jesus.

On the cross Jesus could remember the multitude that once followed Him, and then, because His standards were so high, His demands so severe, many of them left Him and followed no more. There was a plaintive loneliness in the query of Jesus to the disciples, "Will ye also go away?" And now on the cross, Jesus remembers that last night the disciples all fled in the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter has denied Him. It seems that there were none to take pity and for comforters.

My soul has gone through deep waters in recent years. Once some important men of God were dear friends. They believed then as I believed then and still believe. Then they said amen to my bold stand against modernism, and against compromise with sin, the stand which is expressed on the front page of every issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. But now the wind has shifted, and there is a different fad for those who shift with every wind of doctrine. Now it is popular to call people hypocrites, Pharisees, envious, jealous, who still stand where all the old-time fundamentalists stood, for the historic Christian faith and against modernism and against any compromise with unbelief and sin. Oh, the hundreds of bitter, accusing, and often slanderous letters we have received. Shrewd propagandists and paid letter writers encourage the ignorant and the scurrilous to attack.

And while I can sometimes say, like the Lord Jesus said, "Reproach hath broken my heart," my greatest sorrow is that multiplied thousands of young Christians, immature ministerial students as well as preachers, have been encouraged to put away their swords, to make peace at any price with the enemies of the Gos-

pel, to call unconverted men and Christ-rejecting men brothers, and be ashamed to take a stand for the great fundamentals of the Christian faith.

But my soul has been flooded in the last few days with a joyful recompense. I hope that I will more perfectly learn to obey the command to "glory in tribulations." But at least I can already see wonderfully sweet recompenses which God gives to those who are true.

For one thing, in the midst of labors which give me scant time for the long hours of meditation and secret prayer and study I need, I am continually rejoicing to see the hand of God upon my ministry. In recent weeks I have seen again and again great companies of preachers coming forward to dedicate themselves anew to suffer for Christ, to pay God's price for power at any cost.

The other day after long hours of heavy duties and responsibilities I dreaded to go to the pulpit with only a half hour alone with God for preparation. But there was such sweet evidence of a breath of Heaven upon me, such a moving of God's Spirit upon the hearts of the hearers, that as I went home late at night to my easy chair, I could only thank God that the fountain still flows! The literal living water within me has not dried up.

Recently I talked to the Lord in deep concern, because I have so little time to seek out lost people. And the dear Lord seemed to answer the cry of my heart in a number of remarkable experiences. First, three weeks ago today a man called me long distance wanting to know how to be saved. "I thought it took a long period of agonizing and waiting on God to get saved," he said. But when he saw how simple and easy it was from the Scriptures I quoted him over the telephone, he said, "Well, if it means I should just turn to Christ and trust Him as my Saviour and receive Him into my heart, I will do that right now!"

Then at Durham, North Carolina, there was a bright-faced ten-year-old boy, the son of a preacher, in the fifth grade and very intelligently eager to be saved. At Jacksonville, I felt "strangely" leave the crowded church quickly by a side door, and so to meet the crowd as they left by the front door. And here was a woman with tears, so ready to take Christ as Saviour, and there she did with joy!

There were others at West Palm Beach. And this morning a man in his forties came to the office to see me and here at my desk he trusted the Saviour. "I have tried and tried to find peace of mind, and I could not find it any other way," he said. So he came to be saved.

Then to comfort my heart there has been a wonderful response from our weekly radio broadcast across the nation. Thank God for these letters. Thank God for some who earnestly plead with us to pray and who want help to be saved.

The reproach of Christ is not bad, and the broken heart is not bad, as long as the dear Lord is with us in daily joy and power.

Oh, yes, and this morning came a letter from a man so seriously concerned about our stand for the faith. He tells me of his earnest prayer that God will give me grace to be faithful. And he enclosed the largest check we have ever received for the Lord's work! The good hand of God is upon us and we thank Him and take courage.

Those Remarkable Prize-Winning Sermons!

Where else could you find so many great Bible sermons as in THE SWORD OF THE LORD? I am rejoicing in the privilege of publishing the evangelistic sermons which won awards totaling \$1,600 in our sermon contest which closed December 1. That was not chance. It was no gamble. Honest, noble men of God with great labor and prayer and study wrote out sermons to win souls to Christ. We were glad to award them the prizes they earned. It is God's plan "that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." And so we are delighting in these great sermons, one each week in THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Are You Reading Jack Wyrten's Articles "Sex and the Bible"?

Surely parents, teachers, pastors, and youth leaders everywhere will rejoice in the fine work done by Jack Wyrten in these articles on "Sex and the Bible," now being published serially in THE SWORD. Please be sure to see that the young people read these articles. They set standards that are needed. They reprove sin. They show what is wrong with petting and the movies and with the other temptations of which young people need to beware.

How the family would miss the special features in THE SWORD. There is the "Kids Korner," by Aunt Joy; there are the answers to Bible questions, the reports on revivals, the Bible teaching, the sermons by great men of the past.

And I hope that everyone will read the sermon on "The Fall and Restoration of Peter." In the midst of heavy burdens, speaking several times a day, God helped me to do the study and labor of getting this message in print. Now may He use it to thousands of hearts!

Puzzle Fans, We Need Your Help!

The crossword puzzles on "Great Chapters of the Bible" are proving of tremendous interest. Nearly three thousand people have sent in completed crossword puzzles for the first issue of THE SWORD this year! We try to give an important, helpful pamphlet for every puzzle correctly worked and sent in on time each week.

If you have not tried working one of these Bible crossword puzzles on "Great Chapters of the Bible," will you not take the time to work one of them for me, and see if you do not find it a blessing to refresh your mind on Bible truth? Some have written that last year they learned more about the Bible by working these crossword puzzles than they had ever known before. We know that these puzzles are blessing thousands. Will you try them too?

But there is great expense to us involved and we trust all who are blessed will pray about that expense. Many sent in dimes from time to time last year. Still we showed a loss of over \$6,000 on the puzzles alone last year, and that did not count nearly six hundred Bibles which we are sending as prizes for those who completed the required number of puzzles correctly to get the gift Bible.

Again this year we feel sure that these Bible puzzles which are blessing so many will cost us over \$12,000. I shall be deeply grateful if those who are blessed and feel led to do so will send a special offering to help take care of the puzzles. And those of you who cannot send more may like to put a dime in the envelope when you return your puzzle to help on the expenses, the pamphlets we send and the Bibles and the office help used.

Will You Be a SWORD Subscription Partner?

Hundreds of people in the last

We're Not Crazy! It Just Looks That Way!

A woman sat in a psychiatrist's waiting room. On top of her head was a fried egg and over each ear was draped a strip of bacon, well done.

"And what can I do for you?" inquired the psychiatrist as the receptionist showed the lady into his office.

"Oh, nothing—there's nothing wrong with me," she quickly replied. "I'm here to see you about my brother!"

If that woman was sane, she had a good deal of explaining to do! But we can explain why it is that we are offering one-third off and more in a big sale of most of our books, and some other popular titles. Now when living costs are rising everywhere, we offer books at these low prices. But here is why.

1. We really want to get out the Gospel, the Bible teaching, the life-changing messages in these books. We are not in the book business to make money, but to do good. This nonprofit Christian corporation, Sword of the Lord Foundation, cuts off all the profit so our readers can stock up on some of the most helpful, inspiring Christian literature.

2. It is well known among book publishers that more than half of the book business for the year takes place in the three months just before Christmas. But we have the books, we have the workers whom we must keep busy, and we want to do as much good in the first quarter of the year as the last quarter. So while department



stores have their "white sales"; while some other stores have their "inventory sales"; while clothing companies cut winter suits and coats to half price, we come up with a tremendous Book Sale.

Right now, look over the list, choose from this big selection and get your order in the mail. Some titles are limited, and we do not wish to disappoint you. We are expecting a tremendous landslide in sales during this great, great book offer.

Viola Walden
for Retail Department

year have accepted some quota to secure a club of subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD and they have turned in thousands of paid subscriptions.

If you will set out to get a club of subscriptions, 10 or 20 or 50 or 100 (any number from 10 up), you may get these subscriptions in the United States at a special rock-bottom club rate of \$2 a year.

To get these subscriptions you might have a "Sword Sunday" in your church or Sunday School class or young people's meetings. Show samples of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, pass out subscription envelopes, have some one take them up then with names and addresses and the money enclosed. Then send these subscriptions in to THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

One brother simply goes to his friends and says, "If you will pay \$1 on a yearly subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, I will pay the balance of the subscription because I want you to have this Christian paper, America's foremost revival weekly." He has been able to get hundreds of subscriptions and has given generously from his own money in Jesus' name, to help others get started reading THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

If you wish sample copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD to show your friends, you may have them.

If you will write and say, "I will undertake to get — subscriptions (ten or more) to THE SWORD OF THE LORD at the special rock-bottom club rate of \$2 a year, and turn them in within the next three months," we will put your name on a card, and then you may send subscriptions at this special rate. You will understand these subscriptions are for cash, with no premiums, no commission. You are simply helping us get out the Gospel and helping others to have the best Christian reading available, and doing it all for Jesus' sake. Will you be a subscription partner for THE SWORD OF THE LORD?

Pastors and Church Leaders Should Have "Sword Sunday" Soon

If you wish to have a "Sword Sunday" in your church, write us a letter telling us: (1.) How many sample copies of THE SWORD you will guarantee to use if we send them free. (2.) Ask for subscription envelopes that are marked at the special club rate. (3.) Promise that the pastor or some responsible Christian will give a three to five minute talk about THE SWORD OF THE LORD, explain-

ing the features, passing out sample copies, etc. (4.) And see that somebody takes up the subscriptions there and sends them in to us.

Address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Here is a good chance to take your stand with us and with Christ for the fundamentals of the faith and for soul winning. Have a Sword Sunday in your church or adult Sunday School class or women's meeting or young people's society soon!

Help Us Make 1959 a Year of Triumph for THE SWORD

The other day Vice-President Walt Handford and Circulation Manager Jim Culbertson came to my office with names of a good many preachers and Christian workers who ought to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD through the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. Because that fund is overdrawn just now, we felt we must delay sending subscriptions to some of these people. They need THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Some of them cannot pay. Others would pay after they got acquainted with the blessings of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. But they must wait because there is no money to send them THE SWORD just now.

"We need thousands of dollars to send THE SWORD to missionaries, to national pastors in foreign countries, to ministerial students, to prisons, to retired preachers, and to others. I pray and I hope the readers will join me in prayer that God will help us this year to have tens of thousands of dollars for the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. And I will do all I can, using royalty on my books, several thousand dollars a year, for this purpose. Others who are likewise burdened will help as largely as they can, I feel sure.

The radio expense will require some \$50,000 in this year, perhaps more. And there is a deep burden on my heart to pay off the last long-term loan and to have our own capital to run the Sword of the Lord, and some reserve for emergencies. It is true that our property is all paid for and clear, but we would like to pay off all these long-term loans. We pray that God will help us this year to pay off many thousands of dollars of these.

Someone reads this who should put the Sword of the Lord in his will. Someone else could honor the

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AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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Kids' Corner

By Aunt Joy

Grandpa Jenkins Goes Home

Grandpa Jenkins loved children, and he especially loved Patsy and Gloria because they were his very own grandchildren. Patsy and Gloria loved Grandpa because he was their very own grandpa, and also because he told them such wonderful stories. When he came to visit them he would always tell them a story just before they went to bed; and the stories he told were the very best stories that there ever were. Patsy and Gloria knew they were, because of course Grandpa's stories were better than the stories in the books they had.

Patsy and Gloria had been excited all day because Grandpa was going to visit them again that night. They were going with Daddy after supper to the train depot. The big train from the East would come in at 6:10. There would be Grandpa getting off just as he always did, with his cane and his smile and his bag. Patsy and Gloria couldn't seem to eat very much supper, and finally Daddy said, "All right, girls, get in the car and let's go down and find Grandpa Jenkins." Mother waved good-by to them and stayed at home to take care of the baby.

Away they went to the depot. Exactly at ten minutes after six by Daddy's wrist watch, the crossing bell began to ring and they heard the train coming. A few moments later it whistled around the curve in the track. It was a big, long, yellow train. In a few moments the train had come to a stop and people began to get off. Sure enough, there was Grandpa coming down the steps with his cane, his bag and his smile. Patsy and Gloria rushed over to meet him and almost knocked him off his feet because they were so glad to see him. Father came and took Grandpa's bag, and they all went back to the car with everyone happily talking all at once.

As soon as Grandpa got home and had kissed Mother and talked a little while, he said he would like to go to bed because he was very tired. "Oh," said Patsy and Gloria both at once, "aren't you going to tell us a story?"

"Well, well!" said Grandpa; "I had better tell you a story before I go to bed."

Patsy said, "If you are tired, perhaps you would rather not tell us a story tonight. Could you tell us a story in the morning instead, right after breakfast?"

"Now," said Grandfather, "maybe that would be a good idea. I am pretty tired tonight and if you little girls will let me do it that way, I'll tell you a story the first thing after breakfast in the morning; and then of course the regular one tomorrow night after supper."

"Oh, goody, goody!" said the two little girls, dancing around. "We'll have two stories in one day that way."

Grandpa smiled and said good night to everyone and went off to bed. Pretty soon it was time for Patsy and Gloria to come in from swinging in the yard and to go to bed, too.

When Patsy and Gloria woke up next morning at seven o'clock, they dressed and ran down to the kitchen to see if Grandpa was waiting for them. Mother and Daddy were in the kitchen, but Grandpa wasn't there. Mother and Daddy weren't smiling and they could tell that Mother had been crying.

"Where's Grandpa?" Patsy and Gloria wanted to know. "Isn't he up yet? We are ready for our story."

Mother said, "Come here, girls, and let me talk to you for a little while." Patsy and Gloria went over and stood by their mother. "Children," said Mother, "Grandpa

isn't here. The angels came last night and took Grandpa to Heaven to be with Jesus."

Patsy and Gloria were very much surprised. "Will he be gone very long?" they asked. "He was going to tell us a story this morning and another one tonight."

Mother smiled just a little bit. "Grandpa is going to stay with Jesus," she said. "We shall miss him here, but he was very glad that it was time for him to go. During the night he called me and said that he was quite sure he was going to die. He told me how much he loved the Lord Jesus and how much Jesus had done for him all his life; and pretty soon he went to sleep. While he was asleep the angels came for him and took him away."

"Did you see the angels?" Gloria wanted to know. "Did it take two of them to carry him?"

"No," said Father, "Grandpa's body is still up in his bedroom where he went to bed last night. The angels came to get his spirit. The real Grandpa is with Jesus, while his old body, that he doesn't need any more, is left behind."

Father took Patsy and Gloria up to Grandpa's room and they could see what seemed like Grandpa asleep, but it wasn't Grandpa at all. It was just Grandpa's body. Grandpa had gone up to Heaven. Father explained that pretty soon a long black car would come and take Grandpa's body where they would take care of it 'until the funeral.

"What is a funeral?" the children questioned.

"The funeral is the meeting Grandpa's friends and loved ones will come to at the church. The pastor will talk about Grandpa and how he loved Jesus, and how he is in Heaven with Jesus now. Then they will take Grandpa's body out to the cemetery and bury it in the ground and leave it there. Some day when Jesus comes back for all His own people, Grandpa's body, and the bodies of all the other Christians who have died, will rise. Grandpa doesn't need his body now, but Jesus wants him to have it again later on. Only then it will be a different kind of body and it will never be sick and never die."

"I'm sorry that Grandpa has gone away," said Patsy, "but I'm glad that he is with Jesus."

"Yes," said Gloria, "I am glad and sorry at the same time. I think most of all I am glad because Grandpa is so happy now, and he isn't tired any more."

TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What were two reasons why Patsy and Gloria loved to have Grandpa visit them?
2. Why didn't Grandpa tell them a story in the morning?
3. Where was Grandpa?

(Story used by permission. From STORIES FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOUR by Kenneth N. Taylor, Moody Press, Chicago 10, Illinois. Clothbound edition, \$2.75; paper, 79c.)

With Jesus

A little girl, whose baby brother had just died, asked her mother where the baby had gone. The mother replied, "He has gone to be with Jesus."

A few days later the mother was talking with a friend. The little girl heard her mother say, "I am so grieved to have lost my baby."

Remembering what her mother

One may be better than his reputation, but never better than his principles.

—Anonymous

INCIDENTS and Illustrations

By Evangelist Robert L. Sumner
Contributing Editor

Look Who's Talking!

It was no one less than Soviet Premier Khrushchev himself, a man who admittedly has gained considerable reputation as a tippler at diplomatic functions, who announced a Russian plan for cracking down on drunks and moonshiners. He told a recent assembly of farmers, "We must proclaim the sternest struggle against drunkenness and put an end to this evil. Drunkenness is anti-social and profoundly alien to our order and times.... Drunkenness saps man's health. The drunkard disfigures family life and damages society." However, Khrushchev made it plain that he wanted no part of prohibition.

A few days after the premier's speech, a prominent Soviet physician, Dr. S. Gurevich, advised the Reds on how to reach a ripe old age "without decrepitude or senility." Among other rules, the party newspaper, *Pravda*, reported him as insisting that the "pernicious" habits of drinking and smoking must be abandoned completely as "an essential condition of success in the fight against premature old age."

All of which proves that even the Russians can tell the truth when they want to!

Hollywood Happenings

Recent events in the movie capital—both off and on the screen—indicate that Satan is in control just as much as he ever was. Actress Terry Moore is shedding her second husband by "mutual con-

sent." They have promised publicly to always "admire and respect each other greatly".... Another of Bing Crosby's sons, each of whom seem intent on racing one another down the road of alcoholism traveled previously by their famous father, got into trouble with the law. This time it was Lindsay—a mere lad not legally old enough to drink—who pleaded guilty to a charge of drunk driving and was fined \$263 in a Santa Monica court. He hit a parked car.... Attorney Jerry Giesler, noted principally for getting Hollywoodites off the hook with the law, saw his own 21-year-old son serve five days in jail and pay a \$300 fine for drunk driving....

Comedian Martha Raye married her sixth husband (a man she wooed away from his wife, who in turn filed suit for alienation of affection) in New Jersey and insisted, as usual, "This is it!" Famous actress Joan Crawford was matron of honor—if there could be any "honor" associated with that type travesty of marriage.... Bandleader Artie Shaw's seventh wife, actress Doris Dowling, has sued him for divorce, allowing him to line up number eight.... Cary Grant decided to divorce his wife and his studio's happy bosses are gloating that the attending publicity will add \$2,000,000 to the take of his current film.... In like manner, the rotten Liz Taylor—Eddie Fisher—Debbie Reynolds affair has apparently boosted the stock of all three performers. At the same time, the son of the immoral Miss Taylor's last husband said she was "unlikely to make a mistake" since his father had taught her "self-honesty." Miss Taylor, whom Hollywood boasts is their most beautiful and who has just been named second greatest money-making movie star by the nation's motion picture theater operators, continues in her apparent role of trying to prove to our American girls that wrongdoing pays off handsomely! She will probably be voted Hollywood's "best actress" of 1958!

In the picture producing department, United Artists is fighting with the industry's purity (?) code over advertising for their movie, "Anna Lucasta." The ads are so offensive that newspapers refuse to print them and the Johnston Office has threatened to withdraw their seal. United Artists is basing their defense on the fact that "the company should be permitted to tell the public what the story is all about," meaning that the film is just as filthy as the ads imply. Evidently the Johnston Office feels that no one should know how bad the picture is going to be until he has paid his money and gone inside the theater!

"Lady Chatterley's Lover" is another film around which a controversy is raging. According to Arnold Hirsch, a film writer whose review appeared in *The Detroit Times*, the picture deals with "the adulterous romance of an English noblewoman and her hus-

band's gamekeeper." The comment of Hirsch was: "From this writer's viewpoint, the film is no worse than any current foreign film in its treatment of sex. This is a fine motion picture."

Another reviewer described another film, "A Certain Smile," as "a somewhat tawdry drama of illicit love." Then the reviewer made the observation we are trying to emphasize in today's column: "Perhaps it is old-fashioned to remark about the extreme amount of attention which is paid to this type of thing in most of our media of entertainment and wonder if it's really necessary." I think not!

Still another noted filmland columnist, Vernon Scott, recently reported that "stripteaser Lili St. Cyr made movieland history this week when she appeared in a scene for a new picture in the altogether—that is, absolutely nude." He went on to explain, "With the influx of Brigitte Bardot films from France, nudity has become increasingly popular with movie-makers. Hollywood, too, has relaxed its restrictions on expanses of epidermis...." Scott described the filming of the scene, saying that when it was over, "the crew broke into cheers and whistles. Lili, not the least embarrassed, smiled proudly and executed a curtsy." But, then, I suppose we should not expect a woman who has been married to as many men as has Miss St. Cyr to have any modesty remaining.

Apparently "killum" is riding just as high in today's movies as "kissum." A review in the *Kansas City Star* of the film, "The Badlanders," starring Alan Ladd and Ernest Borgnine, calls attention to how that movie glamorizes lawlessness and crime. After telling how the "heroes" pull off a big \$200,000 robbery, the reviewer notes that "the heroines—Katy Jurado and Claire Kelly—are cast as anything but 'wholesome' from a moral standpoint." According to the review, "Ladd has an ingenious plan for looting a mine, originally owned by Borgnine and selling the gold ore to the present owner who in turn plans to double-cross his wife and run off with a mistress, played by Miss Kelly. Borgnine, in the meantime, has fallen in love with a rather promiscuous Mexican beauty, portrayed by Miss Jurado.... Thanks to some fast work, a little luck and the celebration of a Mexican holiday, Ladd pulls off the theft, shoots out of a double-cross, kills a deputy marshal, steals the villain's girl friend and still makes the out-going stage by the appointed hour." The apparent moral: Crime pays and pays and pays!

Yes, obviously, movieland and movies are worse than ever!

Evangelist Sumner can be seen and heard: Thru March 1: Riverdale Baptist Church 3202 Flushing Road Flint, Michigan March 8-22: Berean Baptist Church Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



Hundreds of graduates of Bob Jones University have gone out as missionaries to many foreign fields. The overwhelming majority of these missionaries are standing without compromise for the "old-time religion" and the absolute authority of the Bible. I sometimes think that in America we face problems of compromise that foreign missionaries do not have to face; but they face the same problems we face here. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me," and He made it clear that unless we believe right, we will die in our sins.

Now, if you are interested in the uncompromising, old-time, orthodox emphasis of Bob Jones University and the evangelistic emphasis it is giving in many parts of the world; and if you are interested in its practical philosophy—that life is not divided into the

secular and the sacred but that every Christian consecrated to God and in the place God put him has a sacred position—we would like to have you do three things for the school: First, pray earnestly and daily for Bob Jones University. Pray especially for Bob, Jr., the president of the University, as he discharges his great responsibilities not only as president of the University but as an evangelist ministering in many parts of the world. Second, please also keep your eyes open for the right kind of students so we can train the right kind of Christian leaders, because that is the need for this day. Third, please invest some of the Lord's money in the work. Thank you, and God bless you.

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(Advertisement)

Racial Intermarriage: Is It to Be Encouraged?

By the Editor

December 30, 1958

Dear Mr. H—:

Thank you for your letter which we received December 22.

I am glad to answer your questions the best I can concerning Moses' Ethiopian wife and your question about whether the Bible favors "racial intermarriage or having Negroes in white churches."

1. Moses' Ethiopian Wife May Not Have Been a Negro

Numbers 12:1 says, "And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman." But the word "Ethiopian" simply means a descendant of Cush, and has no reference to the Negro race as such.

On the other hand it seems pretty sure that she was not a Negro, but that she was Zipporah, the daughter of the priest of Midian, in the land of Midian, as you see from Exodus 2:15, 16, 21. The father-in-law's name was Jethro (Exod. 3:1).

Now if Zipporah, Moses' wife, was a Midianite, it could mean that she was descended from Midian, the son of Abraham by his last wife Keturah (Gen. 25:2-4). In that case she was not really a descendant of Cush, not really an Ethiopian, but was of Semitic race. Or it may be that since she lived in the land of Midian, she might have been an Ethiopian or Cushite descended from Ham, by race, though living in the land of Midian. We do not know.

The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, however, gives the most prominent view that "Moses' Midianitish wife, who is here called 'the Cushite,' either in scorn of her dark complexion (c.f. Jer. 13:23) and foreign origin (so most older exegetes) . . ." So the woman may have been of Semitic race, descended from Abraham, but not through Isaac and Jacob, and they may have called her "an Ethiopian" as the Jews, after four hundred years in Egypt, might call any foreigner not a Jew. Or she may really have been a descendant of Ham, a Cushite, but not black. Or she may have been black. But the Bible does not say.

2. Aaron's and Miriam's Rebellion Was Against Moses' Leadership, and So Against God

However, the rebellion of Miriam and Aaron was wrong and God was against it altogether apart from the matter of who Moses married. In Numbers 12, God says nothing in favor of Moses' marriage. It is true that Miriam and Aaron were against the Ethiopian woman Moses married, but their sin was that they sought to displace Moses' leadership and to seize the leadership themselves. "And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by

Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?" Actually Aaron and Miriam rebelled against God, and God punished them for that sin without making any issue of the Ethiopian woman.

3. Moses Did Wrong if He Married a Negro, According to Many Scriptures

On the other hand, it is very clear from many Scriptures that Moses was not following the teachings of God in his marriage, and that God did not especially approve his marriage to the Ethiopian woman.

Consider that Abraham would not allow his son Isaac to marry anyone but one of the chosen family, and so he sent his servant back to obtain a bride for Isaac.

Remember that Isaac and Rebekah insisted that Jacob go back to marry a daughter of Laban, Rebekah's brother, instead of marrying one of the heathen women around.

And so in Deuteronomy 7:3, the children of Israel were plainly commanded about the heathen races about them: "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son."

Intermarriage with people of other nations was expressly forbidden to the Jews also in Joshua 23:12 and 13. See also Ezra 9:10, and Nehemiah 13:23.

With these Scriptures in mind we can be certain that God was not teaching the Jews it was right for Moses to marry an Ethiopian woman, and if Moses did so, he either did it against the will of God or he did it before the will of God was clearly made known as it afterward was in the Scriptures.

There is no evidence and nobody knows whether Simeon, who helped to ordain Paul, was a Negro or not. That is purely guesswork. And if he helped to ordain Paul, that would have nothing to do with intermarriage.

4. The Question of Racial Intermarriage Is Not a Question of Christian Love and Kindness

I think it is clear, from the sense of all the Scriptures, that Christians should love other Christians no matter what their race, and try to win souls among lost sinners of every race. In this matter, it seems that the socialists and communists and paid representatives of the NAACP wholly miss the point of the segregationists. Southern people as a whole are kinder to colored people than Northern people who favor integration. There are some wicked people who oppress Negroes when they have a chance just like there are wicked people who oppress others when they have a chance. But there has been more violence, more crime, more oppression in the one matter of the Kohler strike in Milwaukee than there has been against colored people in all the South in the same period of time. There is more oppression, more crime, more unchristian behavior and attitudes in the labor union movement and in their violence, their bombings, their destruction of property, their beating of people who want to work for a living than has ever occurred in like period of time to Negroes in the South by white people.

The question is not as to whether we should love Negroes, whether we should recognize saved Negroes as Christians or not. The question is whether it is wise for people who are so utterly different in background, and where the marriage would most certainly end in unhappiness for everybody concerned—whether such people should intermarry. And intelligent people, saved and lost, educators, psychologists, and Christian leaders all agree that the intermar-

WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

(NOTE: We are happy to publish honest reports of blessed revivals from trustworthy evangelists and churches. Please give exact statistics, as far as possible, concerning conversions, rededication, additions, etc. We especially appreciate reports from pastors and chairmen of union campaigns.)

The Central Baptist Church of Panama City, Florida, recently enjoyed a week of revival blessing on the opening of a new auditorium. A 35-acre airport has been purchased by the church right in town, and the big hangar has been converted into a tabernacle-auditorium. Evangelist Fred Brown spoke the first night in the new building, followed by Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. E. C. Sheehan, and Rev. Robert Taylor. R. Gene Payne of Byron, Georgia, also spoke and led the music for the week. Crowds were good, some souls were saved, and there were many fresh dedications on the part of God's people, reports the pastor, Rev. Hugh F. Pyle.

In a 12-day period, the Norton Baptist Church, Barberton, Ohio, saw a great spiritual awakening led by **EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS** (Box 417, Bethany, Oklahoma). The pastor, Rev. Jack T. Downs, reports "sixty people saved, twelve rededicated their lives, thirty-seven united with the church and one decision for full-time service to the Lord." Many visits were made during the revival by pastor, evangelist, and people. Two people led to the Lord in their homes were a 70-year-old man and a young Catholic mother. In two years the church has grown, under the present pastor's leadership, from 90 to 518—closing Sunday of the revival.

There were fourteen saved, with thirty-seven young people making dedications of their lives to the Lord in a revival January 4-18 at Evangel Baptist Church, Bridgeport, West Virginia. **EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD** (6427 Wyandotte, Kansas City 13, Missouri) was secured for the revival. The pastor, Rev. Philip W. Horne, writes that thirteen people joined the church, with eighteen baptized, and more to come. "Evangelist Fehsenfeld is one of the finest pastor's helpers this pastor has ever worked with," he further states.

riage of whites and blacks, or of any other groups so radically different in background, is not likely to be a happy marriage and such marriages are to be discouraged.

The Bible makes it clear that there ought to be a great deal more restrictions on marriages than there are on Christian fellowship. For example, there are many people in every church to which I preach, who would not be acceptable as dates and escorts for my daughters. And that is exactly as it ought to be.

5. If Racial Intermarriage Is Wrong, Then Temptations to Intermarriage Is Wrong

But another fact follows closely. People who ought not to marry because it would be unhappy and would lead to misery and trouble and then to sin—such people ought not to have dates, ought not to be thrown together in a way that would lead them to plan intermarriage of the races.

On the streets or streetcars, trains, in hotels, let each race find its own level without oppression. In education, let the groups be put together who for geographical reasons or cultural reasons or educational fitness can best be taught together. Schools are not places to mix oil and water, they are places for education. Sometimes advanced and precocious children should be given special teaching. Sometimes retarded children should be given special treatment and attention. People should be separated by grades and sometimes by sexes. Where there is no racial tension, and where the majority of the people wish it, then schools might make no dis-

Heard "Voice of Revival" Broadcast, Won First Soul

From Detroit, Michigan, Sydney Hambly writes:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I just can't tell you how much your program, 'The Voice of Revival,' means to me. I received your booklet, *The Soul-Winner's Fire*, two weeks ago and it has really done things to my heart. After reading the first few chapters I asked the Lord to help me win at least one soul each MONTH this year. I wish to inform you that God gave me my first soul of the month of January, last night. His name is Ronald Drollinger and he is twenty-one years old . . .

"He and I are going to study your book together now. Well that's about it for this time. I plan to hear you again next Sunday over CKLW radio from 2:30 to 3:00 p. m.

Yours in Christ,
(Signed) Sydney Hambly"

Each month something helpful will be given to those who hear the broadcast and write for it by name.

See the radio log, find the station you can hear. Please listen in and pray.

This "Voice of Revival" program is intended not only to win souls but to make soul winners, as God has led Editor John R. Rice in his ministry through thirty-seven years. This broadcast needs your prayers, needs your financial help to stay on the air. Please pray and help us to help others.

Address "The Voice of Revival," P. O. Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Atonement— a Refuge

Out in our Western country, in the autumn, when men go hunting, and there has not been any rain for months, sometimes the prairie grass catches fire, and when the wind is strong the flames may be seen rolling along, twenty feet high, destroying man and beast in the onward rush. When the frontiersmen see what is coming, what do they do to escape? They know they cannot run as fast as that fire can run. Not the fleetest horse can escape it. They just take a match and light the grass around them. The flames sweep onwards; they take their stand in the burnt district and are safe. They hear flames roar as they come along; they see death bearing down upon them with restless fury, but they do not fear. They do not even tremble as the ocean of flame surges around them, for over the place where they stand the fire has already passed, and there is no danger. There is nothing for the fire to burn. And there is one spot on earth that God has swept over. Eighteen hundred years ago the storm burst on Calvary, and the Son of God took it into His own bosom; and now, if we take our stand by the cross, we are safe for time and for eternity.—Moody.

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Sex and the Bible

(Continued from page 1)

help an oncoming generation which is playing with immoral fire it is often wise to meet that fire with the fire of outspoken truth. This is Jack's pointed methodology. He is realistic as he challenges young people to lives of purity and victory. But he invariably makes it clear that moral probity and integrity are found only in and through Christ, who is both the wisdom and the power of God.

Now begins Jack Wyrzten's message.

1. Sex Traps Youth

The plane was flying from Ottawa, Canada, to Syracuse, New York. Lunch had been served and as the stewardess finished her duties she kept glancing in my direction. I knew she wanted to talk to me about something, but for the life of me I couldn't figure out where I had seen her before.

She had smiled and called me by name when I boarded the plane. Perhaps she had been in one of our meetings somewhere. It is, of course, impossible to recognize all of the many persons I meet in this way, much as I would like to do so. But somehow, I felt that there was a special reason why I should have been able to remember this stewardess.

Now that I have recalled her story I'll never forget her. She has become to me a living symbol of the countless thousands of girls in the United States and Canada who do their best to hide sex tragedy behind a pleasant appearance and a polite smile.

She sat down beside me and started talking. I had to admit, "I'm sorry, but try as I will, I can't place you."

"Don't you remember? I was at your camp for a week last summer."

"We have several thousand come to our camps," I said apologetically.

"I was led to Christ by a girl who used to work in your office, Mildred Wolfertz." Mildred had left the *Word of Life* office to direct a home in New York City for unmarried girls who are going to have babies. The name of the home is Heartsease.

Tears came to the eyes of the pretty stewardess and for a few moments she couldn't talk. Then I remembered her!

The stewardess was one of the girls who had come to the home. In her work with the airline she had met a certain pilot and loved him. Tragically, he had been a man of no principles and he enticed her into the ways of sin. When she found she was going to have a baby, she was desperate, but the pilot was too busy showing another girl the downward path to marry the little stewardess. Grief and confusion broke over her like a flood. Why . . . oh, why had she gambled her life away for a few stolen moments of pleasure? But she had and she was trapped! How could she bear the shame and reproach?

Fortunately, she heard about "Heartsease" and, thankful for a refuge, she went there to have her baby. And there it was that she heard how Christ had died that He might bear her sin. She learned the precious truth of forgiveness in Him, and He became her Saviour.

I remembered her!

"Are you reading your Bible regularly?" I asked.

She tugged on the zipper of her handbag, pulled out a New Testament, and said, "Two years ago if I had opened my purse like this you would have seen a package of cigarettes instead of my New Testament."

The Miracle . . . of the New Birth

(Continued from page 1)

looked into the old man's face, he discovered that the old doctor had diagnosed his own case pretty well and that he wasn't long for this world. Rodwell read some of his most helpful prayers and indulged in some pious platitudes but that wasn't helping the dying man. Blund tossed like a ship on a stormy sea. Finally he struggled up on his elbow and said, "I want to know how to be born again. That's what I need. Some of my patients whom I thought fanatics have told me something about the new birth. I need a new beginning." But the preacher was out of his depth and gave no help.

Finally the dying old doctor glared as he looked into Rodwell's face and said, "Have you ever been born again? Have you? If you have, you should be able to tell me how I can be born again."

The Vicar had to excuse himself and he hurried home ashamed.

Mrs. Blund went on her errand again and found a lowly believer in the Lord who knew the holy, happy secret of the new birth and who was able to lead old Blund to the Lord at almost midnight on Heaven's clock.

Harold Begbie says that Rodwell locked himself in his study and the blind leader of the blind cried out to God for mercy and salvation and he, too, was saved. Blund was born again. The preacher Rodwell was born again. I have been born again. Jesus said, "YOU MUST be born again," for "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:4).

Here we have the Master's message to one man and to all men. Nicodemus, the man to whom this eternal truth was specially directed, was not an irreligious man; he was not an immoral man. He was the last man to whom the majority of ministers in our age would mention the new birth.

This truth is seldom sounded out now, although it is the heart-beat, the very core of the Christian Gospel. There is much preaching about politics and patriotism. There are countless sermons about social service, about the first birth, and some about birth control, but how few are the fervent proclamations of the necessity of the second birth. There are many like Nicodemus, who are masters

in Israel, but know not these things.

I. The Necessity of the New Birth

At the beginning of the Bible we read that God made man in His own image. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27). That is the simple, scriptural statement concerning man's advent into this world, and the scriptural statement still stands. That is not only the statement of divine revelation, but it is reasonable to right thinking men.

Instead of saying, "I believe in God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth," those who scoff at Scripture say rather, "I believe in chaotic nebula, self-existing evolver of heaven and earth." I for one prefer the simple and yet sublime statement of God's mighty Word rather than the muddled, mental meanderings of unbelieving men. I am a creationist, not an evolutionist. Some of my forefathers may have been hung by their necks, but none of them ever hung by their tails.

God's Word says that man was made in the image of the Almighty. He was made upright. God gave him the power of volition. He was made to have dominion. Man, in the exercise of his God-given volition, fell. God's temple was debauched. Man fell into transgression and ever afterwards we read the record of a ruined race. Soon after Adam's fall we read that a son was born in the image of Adam. From that hour to this man has been a sinner by nature and by practice.

In the sixth verse of this great chapter in John we read, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). The apostle in Romans 3:12 declares, "They are ALL gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is NONE THAT DOETH good, no, not one." Again we read in the same chapter, "For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

"Oh, cursed, cursed sin,
Mother of woe, and death, and Hell;
Oh! curs'd sin."

It is this which makes the new

"Do you have many opportunities of witnessing?"

"Every day on board this plane."

She smiled and there was contentment in her face. She had found the answer to life's problems—not just sex problems, but all problems. For there is such an answer and it is the same answer for everyone in the world today. Young people, fellows and girls alike, must find this answer, and find it, if at all possible, before tragedy strikes.

Rod was a high school student, living in one of the New England States. When he was arrested he told the reporters, "I want you to know that Ellen was a good girl. We were sweethearts and Thursday night we decided we wanted to be alone. She led me to the garage at the rear of her home. We got into the front seat of the automobile. We loved and petted for more than two hours and everything happened after that. I couldn't stop myself and she tried to resist me. Then she started to cry and sobbed, 'I'm going to tell my mother.'"

"That drove me off my rocker. I wasn't afraid of her mother, but I was scared of her father. I lost my head and grabbed her by the throat. I meant only to make her shut up, but she fell limp in my arms. I wanted only to love her and I killed her!"

That is one of the many, daily, sad stories of youth today in the United States and Canada—trapped by sex! It starts with a necking party and ends with a tragedy. Youth is tempted on every side. Sin is flaunted everywhere. Sex has become the greatest commercialized snare in the world. No wonder we read of sex sins, we hear of sex sins, we are surrounded by sex sins!

Perhaps we are inclined to grow calloused as a result of all this overexposure. But I would remind you that since the day of Adam's fall, immorality has not changed. Sin is still sin and completely repulsive to God. Sin separates us from God and lost men still need a Saviour. We may have electric lights in place of our ancestors' crude lamps, but sex is still trapping youth in the same old way.

2. Sex Today

"We live in a video environment saturated with exhibition of teasingly semi-draped nudity," says Professor Sorkin, head of the Harvard Research Center in Creative Altruism. "Sex appeal has become a must in commercial advertising . . . Our civilization has become so preoccupied with sex that it now oozes from all pores of our national life."

"We are completely surrounded by the rising tide of sex, which is flooding every compartment of our culture, every section of our social life."

"Among our public officials there is a vast legion of profligates."

"Our morals have changed so notably that continence, chastity, and faithfulness are increasingly viewed as oddities, as the ossified survival of a pre-historic age."

Anyone, even a half-hearted observer of our times, must agree with this eminent professor. For one thing, we are selling on our newstands 15,000,000 sex magazines each month. A few months ago I was in a beautiful, peaceful town in Vermont. I went into a candy store and there, displayed on the rack, was a row of these lurid magazines. On the covers were semi-nude women, either with their clothes fitted provocatively or being torn off by some sex fiend. My feelings were mixed. I was filled with pity for our youth, exposed to this degrading sort of thing, but I felt contempt for the money-hungry, shyster-type adults who prey on youth's innocence. The shopkeeper was a woman, and I asked, "How can you, as a citizen, handle this devilish stuff?"

She gave me a cold look. "That's what the high school crowd wants and the high school is right across the street. If I don't sell it, they will get it somewhere else."

It is the same attitude that has taken over most of the paperback book trade. Nearly any drug store you enter has a rack full of such titles as: *The Duke's Temptation*, and for its cover picture, a woman completely nude but for a tiara in her hair . . . or *The Wild Life*, sub-titled, "The unvarnished con-

fessions of a young carnival hustler," with a partly-dressed couple on the cover . . . or *The Girl in the Dogwood Cabin*, with the caption, "A deliciously naughty novel of life in a summer camp," and showing a nude girl partly covering herself as she and a man peek out of a cabin door.

Even our so-called high grade novels are little better. Take, for instance, *The Scapegoat* by Daphne DuMaurier. In it, one of the principal characters is carrying on a sordid sex affair with his brother's wife. It is all dismissed lightly. The unsuspecting husband is always deceived. The sinning woman goes blissfully on her way.

If the world is going to depict this type of life, it should paint the entire picture, as Scripture says, "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depth of hell" (Prov. 9:17, 18).

And what do the movies and television offer our young people? Sex . . . and more sex! Sex appeal . . . sex appeal, that is all you hear as the standard for stars! No wonder even some of the disillusioned stars cry out for an opportunity to prove they have dramatic ability also.

Philip Wylie (author of *Generation of Vipers*) said, "The American people are more preoccupied with sex and more frightened of it than any others. We're just an obscene people."

Our newspapers are full of the results of filling our hearts and minds with this trash. Any day you can see a headline such as I read recently:

"22 Teen-agers Arrested When Police Raided Old-fashioned Sex and Drinking Party in Vacant Farmhouse."

Recently the front pages of a Philadelphia newspaper told a tragic story. The headline was brief, "Eight Men Held After Girls Face Them." The story was pitiful. The spectacle shocked even the most hardened court officials. Tearful teenage girls told of being lured into unnatural sex acts by these eight men. Included among the men were two well-known radio personalities and a well-known television star. It was one of the most sordid affairs in the annals of Philadelphia crime. My heart aches for the girls and only the Lord can deal with these depraved men.

Sometimes when I pick up a newspaper, I am not too surprised at what I read on page one. I know I live in a world of sinners and expect to read of some sin. But page one isn't enough! Page two and page three carry the same sordid stories.

Page two of a recent paper tells, "Medical Doctor Recruits Girls for Sex Orgies," and "Boy and Girl Die in Car" with the explanation, "The bodies of a fourteen-year-old girl and a sixteen-year-old boy were found in an automobile parked in a secluded area. Police said deaths were suicide from carbon monoxide poisoning." And farther along the article reveals that the two young people had been in sex trouble and took their own lives.

And on page three I read, "Sobbing Girl Tells Court of Attack" with the details, "Weeping bitterly on the witness stand, a tall, attractive girl testified yesterday that she was knocked out, stripped of her clothing and criminally attacked by a Matopan youth in a secluded section of the Kenton woods."

The most awful part of it is that the newspapers all over America tell the same type of story. Some of us are awed and frightened over conditions. Right now we have more bar maids than college girls in the United States . . . we have one rape every hour . . . we have 100,000 lured into prostitution every year. It seems unbelievable, yet it is a fact.

It is no wonder that Edmund de Caussin Jr., when his six-year-old daughter Mary was raped and murdered, said, "I do not blame the man as much as the society that produces such men. It's a society that allows sex magazines on the stands for our kids to read. A society that measures Hollywood stars by their bosoms, a society where the telling of dirty stories and using foul language is commonplace. These things produce sex perverts out of people who have the slightest abnormal

tendencies. They are encouraged by everything around them. Until the day society changes its fundamental moral principles and reasserts a belief in God, we will have sex perverts."

In view of all the filth in our society today, I have been asked, "Do you think that there is any possibility that God Almighty might permit a sinful, godless, heathen, communistic nation like Russia to come over here and drop its deadly bombs and even blot out America?"

I can only answer, "I don't know, but if He does, it won't be the first time that God has used a godless, sinful nation to punish a so-called godly nation." You have only to read the history of the Jewish nation in the Old Testament to see that God used other nations to subdue the Israelites and bring them to their knees.

I do know that our country is in much the same condition as the Roman Empire when it fell. If you have read Edward Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* you know he gave as the reasons for Rome's fall:

1) The rapid increase of divorce and the undermining of the sanctity of the home;

2) The mad craze for pleasure and the brutalizing of sports in every imaginable manner;

3) The decay of religion and fading of faith into mere form, thus becoming too impotent to serve as a guide to the people.

4) The spiraling rise of higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses.

5) The building of gigantic armaments and the failure to realize that the real enemy lay within the gates in the moral decay of the people.

If these are some of the reasons why Rome fell, then how much earnest prayer is needed for a great revival in America! Who can tell, perhaps even now in this mad, late hour, we may avoid becoming the fall of a twentieth century Rome.

I do know that the Bible has the complete answer for any nation. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). Unless we become a nation of righteous people, we can expect trouble and disaster.

How do we become a righteous people? By turning to God from our idols of pride, greed and lust. We must humble ourselves and see our hopeless and helpless condition in the sight of a holy and righteous God. And then, having been washed clean by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ we, as a nation and as individuals, must accept the Bible standards as our normal standards . . . including God's attitude toward sex.

(First of six installments on "Sex and the Bible," by Jack Wyrzten. Will you see that young people read these articles? Watch for next week. These are taken from the book by the same name, published by Zondervan, and used by permission. Order from THE SWORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Ill. \$1.00 plus 15c postage.)

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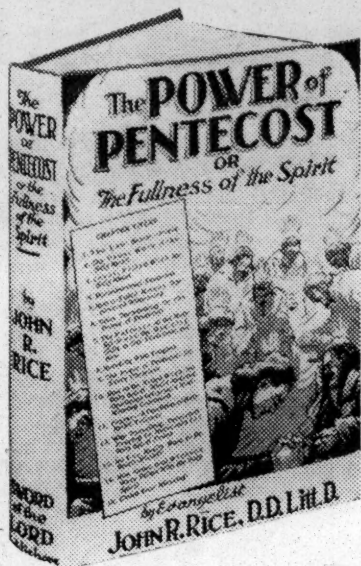
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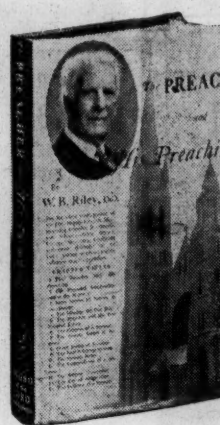
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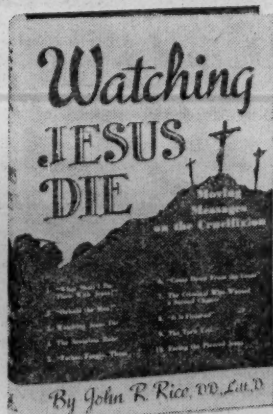
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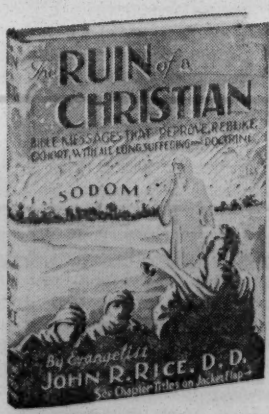
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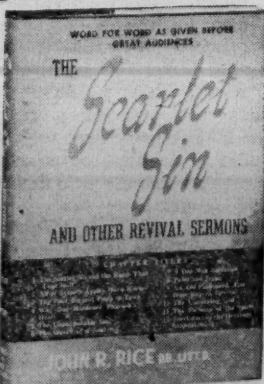
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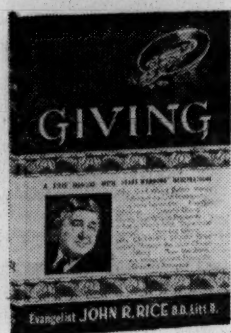
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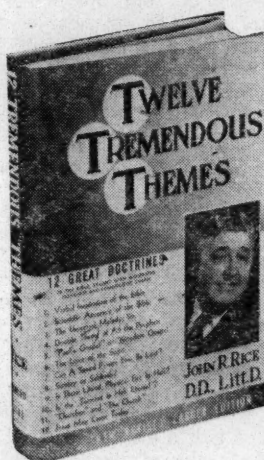
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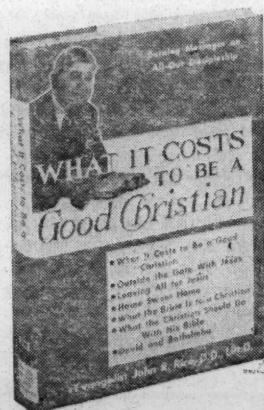


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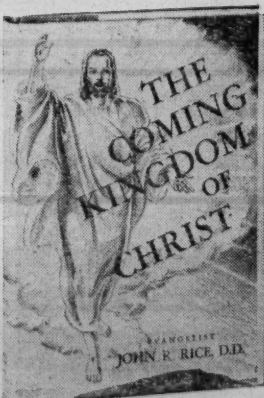


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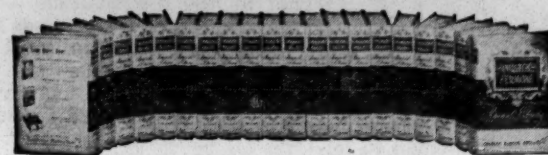
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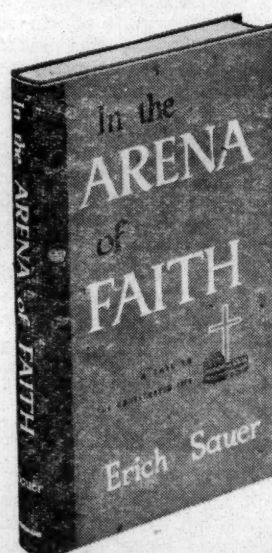
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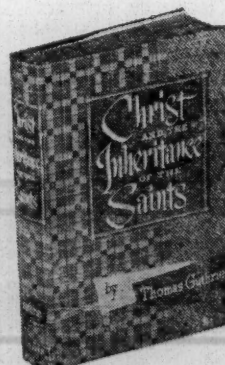
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SWORD OF THE LORD

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Saved by His Life

(Continued from page 1)

truth, "I do always those things which please him." And the Father Himself declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." If salvation comes through imitating Him in His holy ways here on earth, then you and I are as good as lost eternally even now. For it is utterly impossible for a sinful man or woman to follow in the steps of the sinless Saviour.

And yet the Apostle Peter tells us, "He hath left us an example that we should follow His steps." But he is speaking to Christians, not to those who are seeking salvation. We who are saved are now born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. With His gracious aid we are enabled at least in some measure to imitate the example of our blessed Saviour. But the holiest Christian would be the last man on earth to insist that he was saved by following in the steps of Jesus.

II. We Are Not Saved Through the Wonderful Life of Our Lord

Then again "saved by his life" does not mean that we are saved through the wonderful life that our Lord lived, as though that life were acceptable as an atonement for our sinful, evil lives. The life of the Lord Jesus on earth apart from His death would never have saved one poor sinner. He came into the world for the express purpose of laying down His life a ransom for many. As the God-appointed Paschal Lamb, He must be the unblemished One. His holy and righteous life proved Him to be the fit substitute for sinful men. But that life had to be given up in death ere our guilt could be atoned for and our iniquities blotted out. The natural heart rebels at the doctrine of the blood, but the Bible bears consistent witness from the offering of Abel's

Unafraid

I do not fear the atom bomb for He
Who in the years just past
has cared for me
Will place His wisdom in the
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—Edna J. Stauffer

lamb at the Gate of Eden to the song of the redeemed in the Book of Revelation, that salvation is not by the life of Jesus, but by the shedding of His precious blood.

This comes out in vivid contrast, if we consider the well-known words of the founder of a very popular religious system today ("Christian Science"). She has written: "The material blood of Jesus was no more able to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon the accursed tree than when it was flowing in His veins as He went about daily doing His Father's business." But our Saviour Himself, when He instituted the last supper, said, as He gave the cup to His disciples, "This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins." It is impossible to reconcile these two statements. The one denies the cleansing efficacy of the shed blood. The other declares the blood was shed for the express purpose of the remission of sins. Whatever "saved by his life" means, it cannot, then, mean that it is His life on earth rather than His death that makes it possible for guilty sinners to be justified by a holy God.

III. Salvation Is Presented in the New Testament as Threefold

Before attempting to show what the words actually do mean, let me point out what to many will be familiar truth already. Salvation is presented in the New Testament in a threefold way: All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are saved from the guilt of sin and from the judgment due to sin. This salvation is complete and eternal from the moment we believe. To it the apostle refers when he says, "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." And again he tells us, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." Many other passages emphasize the same wondrous fact that we are already saved if we have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But this is not all there is to salvation. Having been saved from the guilt of sin we who are Christians are now being saved daily, hourly, momentarily from the power of sin through the interces-

sion of the risen Christ, and the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. By and by when we are gathered Home with the Lord, we shall be saved from the presence of sin, when we are fully conformed to the image of God's beloved Son. Now it is to these second and third aspects of salvation that the words of the text apply. We who have already been reconciled to God by the death of His Son shall be saved by His life. That is, His resurrection life. He who died for us on the cross to settle the sin question, now lives in glory to complete in us the work which His grace has begun. It is as the Risen One; He says, "Because I live, ye shall live also."

IV. Believers Kept, or Saved, Through Christ's Intercession and Advocacy

It is right here that many need help. Often in speaking with exercised souls urging immediate trust in Christ and confession of Him as Saviour, one is met by the anxious reply, "I would like to come to Christ but I am afraid I can never hold out. I might become a Christian tonight and afterwards bring such disgrace on the name of the Lord by lapsing into sin that I am afraid to venture. It is not that I do not trust Christ, but the fact is I do not trust myself. I know my own propensities and proclivities so well; I am so conscious of sinful habits that dominate and control my life that even though intellectually convinced that Jesus is the only Saviour, I do not dare trust myself to Him and confess Him openly for fear I could not hold out. I feel it would be better never to have made a profession than to disgrace it all by failure afterwards."

My dear troubled one, let me now seek as God by His Spirit will enable, to bring before you the encouragement that lies in the four words of my brief text. We are "saved by his life." You are not asked to trust Christ in order that your sins up to the time of your conversion may be put away, and then that you should be left on your own resources to do your best to live a Christian life with possibly failure in prospect eventually, but the Spirit of God would have you see that He who loved you enough to die for you on the cross, now lives to sustain and maintain all who believe in Him, in order that they may walk as He walked and glorify God in their daily lives. He is not less interested in us after having died for us, but now in Heaven He is daily saving His people from their sins, keeping them by His mighty power.

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, we read, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). What a glorious truth is here revealed! As our High Priest with God, He ever gives us a perfect representation before the throne of God in Heaven. He makes constant intercession for us presenting His own excellencies on our behalf. And He sits there enthroned as a reservoir of all that we need for our pilgrim path, bidding us come boldly to a throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace for seasonable help. All that we need in the conflict with sin to enable us to come out victoriously, He waits to supply. We have only to draw by faith upon His infinite resources. But more than this, by the Spirit He now indwells all believers. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). The indwelling Spirit is the Spirit of power and of holiness, and as we walk in the Spirit we are definitely promised that we shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

"Ah," exclaims someone, "I begin to see now, I think, what it means to be saved by His life. But even though there are infinite resources in Christ of which I may avail myself, is there not still danger that I may fail to do this and hence may break down completely after all, and so my last end be worse than the beginning?"

Unquestionably we are all liable to failure. But let us remember that failure does not involve separation from Christ. In respect to this also, we shall be saved by His life, for it is written, "My little children, these things write I unto

you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2). Christians are not perfect people. We still have within us the old nature though we have been born again. The Lord Jesus says, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). No amount of Christian nurture will change flesh into spirit. "The carnal mind is . . . not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). If we are looking for improvement in ourselves after conversion, we shall be disappointed. We need to recognize that in us, that is, in our flesh, dwells no good thing. The Word of God, as a mirror, exposes us to ourselves. It tells us what the works of the flesh are, and against these we need to be continually on our guard.

I ran across an illustration the other day that I think pictures this admirably. An elderly gentleman who was very nearsighted prided himself on his ability as an art critic. On one occasion he was accompanying some friends through a large gallery and was seeking to display his real or fancied knowledge of pictures to them. He had left his glasses at home and was not able to see things very clearly. Standing before a large frame, he began to point out the artistic features of the picture there revealed. "The frame," he said, "is altogether out of keeping with the subject, and as for the subject itself (it was that of a man), it is altogether too homely, in fact too ugly, ever to make a good picture. It is a great mistake for any artist to choose so homely a subject for a picture if he expects it to be a masterpiece." The old gentleman was going on like this when his wife managed to get near enough to interrupt. She exclaimed, "My dear, you are looking into a mirror," and he was quite taken aback to realize that he had been criticizing his own face.

Now the Word of God is such a mirror. It does not hide our deformities. It shows us up just as we are. But we are not to be occupied with our old selves. The Spirit of God would turn us away from self altogether to occupation with the risen Christ, and as we are taken up with Him, we are kept from sin. It is when we get our eyes off Christ and become self-occupied or taken up with the world around us that we fail. And who of us does not so fail? We all have to confess our failures from day to day, but our ever-living Saviour is not only our High Priest to minister all needed grace and help, but even when we fail to avail ourselves of that as we should, He is our Advocate still, and the moment we fail He takes up our case with the Father. Mark, it does not say, "If any man confess his sin, we have an advocate," but rather, "If any man sin, we have an advocate." The moment we fail He is in the Father's presence about us, and as a result of His gracious advocacy, the Spirit continues His work in our hearts bringing us to repentance and confession, and, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). And so "we shall be saved by his life."

Then when at last our time of toiling and fighting here on earth shall come to an end and our Lord shall receive us to Himself, He, the ever-living One, will save us completely from the very presence of sin so that we shall never be so much as tempted again for all eternity, but will be preserved inviolate in holiness before the face of God our Father. Thus in the fullest possible sense we shall be forever "saved by his life."

V. Will You Trust Him for Saving and Keeping?

What encouragement then this should give to the anxious trembling sinner who is alarmed as he thinks of judgment ahead; he yearns for forgiveness and justification but he fears he will never be able to glorify God in his life afterward. The same One who loved you enough to die for you and now bids you trust Him as your Saviour, is the One who lives in the glory to guide us, and, has

declared, "His sheep shall never perish." Trust Him then, I beseech you, tonight, and having been reconciled to God by the death of His Son, you will know the blessedness of being "saved by his life."

(From the book **THE UNCHANGING CHRIST, AND OTHER SERMONS**, by H. A. Ironside, Litt.D. Loizeux Brothers, Bible Truth Depot, 19 West 21st Street, New York City, N. Y. Published by permission.)

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The Miracle... of the New Birth

(Continued from page 5)

birth such a dire necessity. God is holy and cannot fellowship with sinful, rebellious, and unregenerate men. Heaven must be in our hearts before we can enter Heaven. No man who will honestly read the third chapter of Genesis and the third chapter of Romans can ever again question the necessity of the new birth. God looketh on the heart and He sees it as "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it" (Jer. 17:9).

Alas, man only sees a part,
And thus they judge the whole;
They cannot look upon the heart,
They cannot read the soul.
But I survey myself within,
And mournfully I feel
How deep the principle of sin
Its roots may there conceal,
And spread its poison through the frame,
With scarce a deep that man can blame.

THERE ARE NO SUBSTITUTES for the NEW BIRTH.

There is nothing "just as good" as the new birth. Nothing else and nothing less can receive divine approval. That is why the Saviour uses the emphatic "MUST" when He speaks of the new birth.

REFORM Cannot Take the Place of the New Birth

Reform does not touch the source, the spring, the fountain-head of a man's life. Reform today does not obliterate the past with its pollution. Some men give up their bad habits by the power and pressure of will and because their misdemeanors of the past didn't pay. This often caters to a man's pride. God gets no glory. If a man does lop from his life the odd bad habit, he is still only a reformed sinner. Many reformed men are still atheistic. It is not putty and paint that men need but divine power. It is not a better exterior but a radical experience that men need.

RELIGION Is Not the New Birth

Which religion? How much religion? Church attendance and church allegiance, good enough in themselves, won't suffice instead of the new birth. Many a man hides from God behind the pillars of a cathedral. Multitudes cover up behind a hymnbook or a prayer book. Many are busy in church life who have no sincere love for Christ at all. Thousands who have tasted the cup of communion have never even sipped the cup of salvation. Now don't get me wrong. I believe in church membership FOR SAVED PEOPLE. The New Testament teaches a regenerated church membership. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

When you have been saved, regenerated, born again, then join a church. Join a live church. Join where the preacher loves the Word of God and the souls of men. Keep out of these ecclesiastical deep freezers. A deep freeze is all right for a dead chicken, or a chunk of cheese, or a leg of lamb, but it is no place for a live baby. A baby must be fed and nourished and given a chance to exercise, vocalize, and grow. It couldn't do that in a refrigerator.

Billy Sunday, in his own graphic way, said, "Hell will be full of church members. There won't be room for them all and their feet will be sticking out of the windows."

Men must turn from FORM to FAITH, from RITUAL to REALITY, from CHURCH to CHRIST, from HYMNBOOK to HIMSELF. Millions of names have been written on church rolls that were never written in the Lamb's Book of Life. It is altogether impossible to find a single syllable of Scripture that even suggests that religion and joining the church are synonymous with being saved.

BAPTISM Is No Substitute for the New Birth

Which mode? What method of baptism? I am sure that immersion is the biblical form of baptism, but immersion can't save. A man may be immersed in the Atlantic and Pacific, Galilee and the River Jordan, and still go to Hell.

No outward form can make you clean, The leprosy lies deep within.

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

But someone may quote John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." I am quite confident that it doesn't mean the water in the baptism but the water of the Word. We find this figure of the Word of God repeatedly in the Bible. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Ps. 119:9). In Titus 3:5 we read, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the WASHING OF REGENERATION, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit." In Ephesians 5:25 we find this, "He gave himself for the church... that he might cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." The Saviour says, "Now ye are clean by the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

So we see that there are many passages that link cleansing or washing with the application of God's Word.

In Peter's Epistle we get this, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: BEING BORN AGAIN, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, BY THE WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Pet. 1:22, 23). Peter says it is "BY THE WORD." He ties together THE WORD and THE SPIRIT. These are the two instruments, the two agencies, which God uses for the salvation, the transformation, the NEW BIRTH of a soul. It is by THE WORD and THE SPIRIT.

We have scriptural illustrations of this. In Genesis the first chapter we find in the creation record an illustration of the new birth. I know that the chapter is historic but it is also evangelistic. It is both historic and parabolic. It is genuine, trustworthy history. It is also illustrative. It is suggestive of the new birth.

How did God bring cosmos out of chaos? How did He bring light out of darkness, and life out of death? In Genesis 1 and verse 2 we read that "the Spirit of God moved." Then later in the chapter we find that eight times (eight is a new beginning, eight is resurrection, eight is a fresh start) we find this statement, "God said." Life came and light came by the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

For another illustration let us go to Ezekiel, chapter 37. Here in this well-known chapter we have the story of the Valley of Dry Bones. I realize it is prophetic. I know it is dispensational. I recognize it is futuristic. I contend it is also evangelistic. Like Genesis chapter one, it is illustrative.

How did life come in the valley? God said to His servant, "Prophecy upon these bones," and Ezekiel did. In verse 4 we read, "O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord." Later in the chapter we read of "the four winds and breath." This is a picture of the Holy Spirit. By the Word and the Wind, by the Breath and the Book, by the Scripture and the Spirit, life came. God still works like that.

How can men, long dead, dusty and dry, barren and bad, live? By the Word of God and by the Spirit. This is how men are saved, BORN AGAIN. Peter says so, Moses says so, Ezekiel says so. So does John. "It pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21). Only believe and live. "The entrance of thy words giveth light" (Ps. 119:130).

So we are trying to take away men's creaking crutches on which they lean. Nothing, nothing can substitute for salvation. There is nothing as good as the new birth. Regret over sin, resolution, new environment—nothing, sinner, nothing can substitute for regeneration. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). It might be nice looking flesh, cultured flesh, educated flesh, religious flesh, but

it is only flesh. In the same verse, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." In Romans 8:8 it is written, "So they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

Are you surprised that these things should be said? Nicodemus was. He marvelled. He looked amazed. There must have been a puzzled expression on his face, for Jesus said to him, "Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again" (vs. 7). Perhaps many are not surprised that Nicodemus was surprised, for he was a good man. He was no drunken derelict, no licentious libertine. He was a leader in the land, a model in morals. He knew his religion from A to Z.

But Jesus Christ would not, did not, spare him. Some men have to be amazed before they can be awakened. They have to be shocked before they can be saved. They need to marvel in order to know God's mercy. Some must be surprised and then saved. This was true with Nicodemus.

II. The "HOW" of the New Birth

"Nicodemus answered and said unto him, HOW can these things be?" (vs. 9). Here we are brought face to face with the miracle and the mystery of the new birth. It is a fact and a puzzle. Our natural birth is a figure of this. Every new-born babe is a biological miracle, more than the wisest man can ever explain. So why should we question and quibble when we cannot explain all the mysteries of the new birth? Christ said to Nicodemus, "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not [that is, the fact, the miracle], how will ye believe if I tell you of heavenly things" [that is, the mystery, the puzzle] (vs. 12).

The Master gives the illustration of the wind in verse 8: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." It is a fact and a puzzle. We find many evidences of this in daily life. We daily accept countless things as facts which we cannot explain. Do any of my readers know how a black cow can eat green grass, and give white milk with yellow butter in it? Not many or any. Yet most of us like milk on our breakfast cereal and cream in our coffee.

All over America multitudes every autumn eat luscious watermelon. Can anyone explain how a little brown seed can be buried in the ground, and grow watermelons? There under the influence of sun and shower, warmth and wet, it takes off its coat and goes to work. Out of its rotting self it sends a long white string. Through that living string it pushes two hundred and fifty thousand times its own weight. On the surface end of the string it builds an oblong affair with a green and white surface. Inside the skin is a layer of white and then a core of red filled with sweet moisture. All through this red center are little brown seeds, all capable of doing the same thing all over again. Thousands eat the sweet and juicy slices but have no idea how nature produced it. They accept the fact.

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.
But I know whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day.

Look at the 14th, 15th, and 16th verses of our chapter:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Will you look to Christ and live? Leave the miracle with the Lord. Look and live. There is life for a look at the crucified one.

In your place condemned He stood,
Sealed your pardon with His blood,
Hallelujah! What a Saviour.

"But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:24, 25).

Will you personally appropriate His saving power? Only believe and live.

There is life for a look at the Crucified One, There is life at this moment for thee; Then look, sinner, look unto Him, and be saved, Unto Him who was nailed to the tree.

In John 1:12 we read, "As many as received him, to them gave he power [the right or privilege] to be called the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." In I John 5:12 we read again, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Nothing could be plainer, nothing more simple. Do you believe what God says in His Word about you as a sinner and Christ as the Saviour?

Ye children of men, attend to the Word
So solemnly uttered by Jesus the Lord;
And let not this message to you be in vain,
"Ye must be born again."

And finally, let us look at

III. Some Samples of the New Birth

The Christian faith has ample evidences. The trophies of God's grace are tremendous. The monuments of God's mercy are many. By the Word and the Spirit cruel men have been made kind. By the Gospel drunken sots have been turned into sober saints, savages transformed into saints, and countless cannibals made Christians.

What of Saul of Tarsus? His conversion is one of the world's wonders. He was a vowed enemy of every Christian. He was a man of great mental equipment and training. Paul was a scholar of his age. Bound for Damascus, he was armed with authority to butcher the believers, to kill all the Christians. Then Christ met him and grace radically revolutionized this rebel. Saul becomes Paul. The butcher becomes the blessing, the antagonist the peerless apostle, the murderer becomes the mighty missionary. That is the new birth.

See that man bowing on Pilate's stairway in Rome? See him going up on his knees the steps of the Sancta Scala? Suddenly he seems to jump for joy. Light has shone in and he cries, "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). Martin Luther has risen to his feet and Europe was shaken.

Stanley the traveler said that when he went to Africa to find Livingstone he was the biggest atheist in London. But when He found Livingstone he found Livingstone's Saviour. Stanley was born again. When dying he said to his brokenhearted wife, "Do not weep for me; we shall meet again." That last message came from the man who previously was the biggest atheist in London.

What of John Bunyan, Sam Hadley, Jerry McAuley, Mel Trotter, and a multitude of twice-born souls? The writer of this message need not delve into history to find evidence, samples of the new birth. He could give his own personal testimony. He can tell of countless ones who, under his own humble ministry, have been born again and whose lives are a daily witness to God's transforming grace. He could tell of many who for years never saw the inside of a church, whose hearts and homes were seething with unrest. Today these men, formerly fallen, now walk perpendicular before God and men.

Immoral man, sin-seared, Devil driven! You must be born again. You can be born again. Moral man, reeking with respectability, religious and cultured man and woman! You too must be born again. This message is for Nicodemus with his culture, and for the woman at the wellside with her corruption.

Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If He's not born in thee,
Thy soul is all forlorn.

It is said that some years ago there was an old tug on the Thames that had a bad reputation. It had a drunken skipper and often came up the Thames to dock like a water spider jumping here and there. It was called "Old Bust-em-up" because of its deeds. It would often bump into a barge and just miss another tug. More than once the dock had to be repaired because "Old Bust-em-up" would come in at half steam. Whenever the news got around that she was coming in to dock, crowds would gather to watch the performance.

One day the news went around the wharf area that the noteworthy tug was on her way in. People came to watch, but they got fooled. She was coming up the river straight and true and at proper speed. Controversy commenced. Some said it was not "Bust-em-up." Others said they were sure it was. Finally one shouted over the water through a megaphone, "What's the name of the tugboat coming up?" The answer came ringing back over the water, "This is 'Old Bust-em-up' with a new skipper on board." That was the secret. Another hand was on the helm.

That is illustrative of the new birth.

"He that hath the Son hath life" (I John 5:12). Take the Pilot on board. Let the pierced hand hold the helm of your heart. Open the heart's door and let the Saviour in.

O ye who would enter that glorious rest,
And sing with the ransomed the song of
of the blest;
The life everlasting if ye would obtain,
"Ye MUST be born again."

—The End—

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The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 2)

Lord by sending a large gift as a permanent spiritual investment in the Sword of the Lord and help us to carry on this nonprofit evangelistic and Christian work.

Dr. Moyer's Sermons

Readers will be glad to see an ad in THE SWORD OF THE LORD announcing sermons by the late Dr. Robert L. Moyer for sale. He was a noble man of God, our beloved

Sign in a Chicago Liquor Store

Since you cannot refrain from drinking, why not start a saloon in your own home? Be the only customer and you will not have to buy a license. Give your wife \$55 to buy a case of whiskey. There are 240 drinks in a case. Buy all your drinks from your wife at 60 cents a drink and in 12

friend, one of the finest and sweetest Bible teachers. Get his books if you can.

days (when the case is gone) your wife will have \$89 to put in the bank and \$55 to buy another case. If you live ten years and continue to buy all your whiskey from your wife and then die in your boots, your widow will have \$27,085.47 on deposit . . . enough to bring up your children, pay off the mortgage on the house, marry a decent man and forget she ever knew a bum like you.

The Fall of a Preacher

(Continued from page 1)

his character perhaps, Peter was called "the rock." He was not bed-rock and foundation stone like the Lord Jesus, but at least a stone, and that is why we call him Peter instead of his original name, Simon.

It was Peter who was selected in some typical way for special honor when Jesus said, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:19). The promise of binding and loosing, remitting and retaining sins, was not given to Peter alone, as our Catholic friends sometimes think, but to all the apostles (John 20:23), and in some sense we believe to all who receive the Holy Spirit as these apostles did in the preceding verse. But Peter seems to have been selected to make the first great public proclamation of the Gospel at Pentecost, after Christ's ascension, and the first also to take the Gospel to the Gentile house of Cornelius.

Neither Peter nor any other man in New Testament times was a pope. Peter was not the head of "the church" in any Catholic denominational sense. The Bible never indicates that he even went to Rome. But Peter was the most prominent of all the twelve apostles, and the most prominent Christian alive when he denied Jesus Christ and cursed and swore and lied and quit the ministry!

In a brief index in my Bible, thirty-three incidents in the life of Peter are mentioned, and only fourteen in the life of the next most prominent of the original twelve, that is John. Thirty-five incidents are mentioned in the life of the Apostle Paul, but since the incidents in the life of Peter are often mentioned four times in the four Gospels, Peter is given more prominence in this index than any other man in the New Testament besides the Lord Jesus.

My, what a scandal it was in Jerusalem when Simon Peter, the quick-spoken and sometimes self-appointed spokesman of the other apostles, got in with the wrong crowd watching the trial of Jesus, lost his courage, denied the Lord Jesus and blasphemed!

Surely this shows that the sin of Peter, the most prominent of the twelve, is intended to warn us that we too, ordinary human beings great or small, baby Christians or learned theologians, should with the deepest concern face the temptations which await us, as they awaited and trapped Peter!

Not only weak Christians fall into serious sin, but strong ones. Not only lay people, but preachers. Not only the careless worldling,

but the most devoted of God's children. They like Peter disgrace their profession, lose their testimony, lose the sweet sense of God's presence by outrageous sin.

3. Note the Serious, Scandalous Nature of Peter's Sin

I fear that familiarity has bred contempt, and the story of Peter's backsliding is so old to us that we are not shocked as we ought to be by the scandalous, outrageous nature of Peter's sin.

First, Peter denied that he was a disciple of the Lord Jesus. He denied that he even knew Jesus. The Scripture says, "But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him and said, This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not" (Luke 22:56-58). And he repeated that denial a third time. Peter did not claim to be a Christian, did not claim to love and follow the Lord Jesus or even to know Him.

This was not only a denial of Jesus, but an outright lie. And lying is put in the Ten Commandments along with murder and adultery as a terrible sin.

But Peter sinned yet more. "And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man . . ." (Matt. 26:73, 74).

I have no doubt that Peter as a poor unconverted lost fisherman was profane. Now the apostle reverts to the speech of the blasphemer. The child of God repudiates his position with Jesus and his love for the Lord Jesus, and with it repudiates righteousness.

Do not misunderstand me. I do not say that Peter now did not love the Lord. I am sure he did. I do not say that Peter now did not want to do right anymore. I am sure that he did. There is overwhelming evidence on that point and we will discuss it later, but certainly Peter here openly claimed the position of an ungodly man. I do not wonder that he then decided to quit the ministry and go back to the fishing business. Perhaps he thought that his sin was so great that Christ would never forgive him. Perhaps, he may have "forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" as he himself was inspired to write later about some Christians (II Peter 1:9). Perhaps he felt that people would never now listen to him preach after such a scandalous sin.

I press this matter because some Christians need to know that a child of God, if not on his guard, may be led into the most outrageous and coarse sins. A David may commit adultery or murder. A Lot may let his town go to Hell and get drunk and ruin his daughters. A Samson may fall in love with Delilah and lose his power with God. A Peter, the apostle, may curse and swear and deny the Lord Jesus and quit the ministry.

And let us remember that this sin came through a man who shortly before had solemnly vowed, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended"; and again, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee" (Matt. 26:33, 35).

That vow of Peter was as sincere as any holy vow and pledge a Christian ever makes, doubtless. Peter did love the Lord Jesus enough to die for Him. In fact he did die for Jesus in a martyr's death, as Jesus plainly foretold when He took Peter into His arms and service and fellowship afresh in John 21:18, 19. Thus good Christians, men and woman of prayer and of holy intentions and of genuine consecration, need to beware lest they fall into the snare of Satan as did Peter.

4. Peter Did Not Lose His Salvation

Peter lost his joy. He went out and wept bitterly. Peter lost his testimony. He quit preaching and went back to the fishing business. Peter lost his fellowship with the Saviour, and when he saw the Lord

(Continued on next page)

"Great Chapters of the Bible"

Judges 16

Samson

(All scriptural clues from Judges 16 unless another reference is given)

- Clues Across**
- 2, 5, 7 "And Samson said, _____ with the Philistines. And he bowed himself"
 - 9 "the dead which he slew _____ his death"
 - 11 "There hath not come a _____ upon mine head"
 - 12 "ask it either in the depth, _____ in the height above" Isa. 7
 - 14 Samson buried near here
 - 16 "Herod . . . made an _____ unto them" Acts 12
 - 18 an animal Solomon imported (I Kings 10:22)
 - 19 affirms to be true
 - 21, 22 "And Samson said, Let me die _____ Philistines"
 - 23 "as a thread of tow is broken when _____ toucheth the fire"
 - 24 a chief ruler about David (II Sam. 20:26)
 - 26 a son of Canaan (Gen. 10:15)
 - 28 "the rain _____ nourish it" Isa. 44
 - 30 "Straightway the spirit _____ him" Mark 9
 - 33 "I am . . . the beginning and the _____" Rev. 1
 - 36 "_____ me that I may feel the pillars"
 - 39 "but godliness with contentment is great _____" I Tim. 6
 - 41 "the dead . . . were more than they which he _____ in his life"
 - 43 "But the _____ took him, and put out his eyes."
 - 45 a book of maps
 - 46 the son of Abdiel (I Chron. 5:15)
 - 48 judged Israel twenty years, but died with his enemies
 - 52 woman who caused Samson's defeat
 - 53 "And _____ wist not that the Lord was departed from him"
 - 54 Initials for:
 - (a) town where Samson carried gates to the top of a hill
 - (b) town where Samson's first wife lived (Judg. 14:1)
- Clues Down**
- 1 "I have been a _____ unto God from my mother's womb"
 - 3 a period of time
 - 4 stopping place of children of Israel during wilderness wanderings (Num. 33:26)
 - 5 debatable
 - 6 "he that refuseth reproof _____" Prov. 10:17
 - 7 with spots
 - 8 part of the eye
 - 10 "carried them up to the _____ of an hill"
 - 13 "then shall I be weak, and be as _____ man"
 - 15 "Great is your _____ in heaven" Matt. 5
 - 17 "he planteth an _____, and the rain doth nourish it" Isa. 44
 - 20 "she caused him to shave off _____ seven locks of his head"
 - 23 "she fastened _____ with the pin"
 - 25 "so that the city _____ again" I Kings 1:45
 - 27 "carried them up _____ the top of a hill"
 - 29 "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet _____ (s) in one point" James 2
 - 31 number of people in the ark (I Pet. 3)
 - 32 "many of them that sleep in the _____ of the earth shall awake" Dan. 12
 - 34 "I will fasten him as a _____" Isa. 22:23
 - 35 a venomous lizard (_____ monster)
 - 37 first three letters of a hard stone, used to describe determination in Isa. 50:7
 - 38 "the poor man had nothing, save one little _____ lamb" II Sam. 12
 - 40 first three letters of first month of Jewish calendar (Esther 3:7)
 - 42 "there hath not come a razor upon mine _____"
 - 43 bucket
 - 44 "she _____ and called for the lords of the Philistines"
 - 47 "_____ loved a woman in the valley of Sorek"
 - 49 "_____ Lord God! wilt thou destroy all the residue?" Ezek. 9
 - 50 "O Lord God, remember _____, I pray thee"
 - 51 king of Bashan (Num. 32:33)

Free!

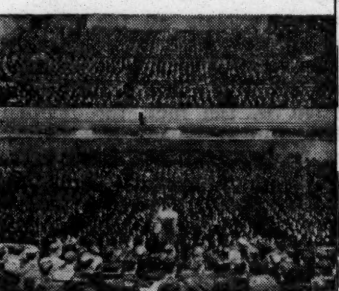
for correct, prompt answers to
Puzzle Number 8

Sword Song Souvenir

Songs and Choruses

by

Dr. John R. and Bill Rice



Prepared as an insert to Sword Revival Song Book. Contains pictures of the Sword Co-operating Board, Dr. Rice, giant revival crowd, the Rice revival in Cleveland, Ohio. It has the words and music of five popular gospel choruses by John R. Rice, two full-length songs by Dr. Rice, one lovely chorus by Dr. Bill Rice.

The songs and choruses are: "Souls Are Dying"; "Come Holy Spirit"; "Open Your Heart's Door"; "We'll Never Say Good-By"; "Sing As You Ride"; "Jesus Is a Man of Sorrows"; "The Price of Revival"; "Remembering in Heaven."

These songs are sung in the large Sword conferences on revival and soul winning. This Sword Song Souvenir has 8 large pages. We think you will like it. Is given absolutely free to those who get Puzzle Number 8 correct.

THE RULES

1. Fill in the empty blanks according to the clues given. Answers must be complete and correct.

2. PRINT (not write) your name and address in the blank below the puzzle. (Please include country in foreign addresses.) This coupon will serve as your address label for the envelope containing your prize. Mail to: PUZZLE EDITOR, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois. If you do not wish to cut up your copy of the paper, you may print (not more than three inches wide) on a separate sheet of paper your name and address, and the answers according to the clue numbers given. Entries will not be returned.

3. In order for you to receive the puzzle premium, *Sword Song Souvenir*, your entry must be postmarked by midnight, March 2, 1959. If your paper arrives after the deadline date, please place the date of arrival on the entry. The answer to Puzzle Number 8 will appear in the March 13 issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

4. Each person having a correct entry will receive a coupon along with the weekly prize. *Save these coupons!* They are important! At the end of the year those who have forty-eight coupons will receive a large-type, clothbound Scofield Reference Bible. Please remember that the coupons which you have are the only record of your correct entries. It will be your responsibility to keep the coupons. In addition, note that coupons may not be exchanged with one another. The winning of a Bible is on an individual and not a group basis. Also, duplicate coupons will not count as two

GOLIATH ✓

Boasting, taunting he strutted around, Thought not his equal could ever be found;

He merely measured his length on the ground, Poor, foolish Goliath.

The Philistines fled from the field in a clatter

Never quite realized what was the matter;

But the story about them has been told ever after

And brawny Goliath.

—Edna J. Stauffer

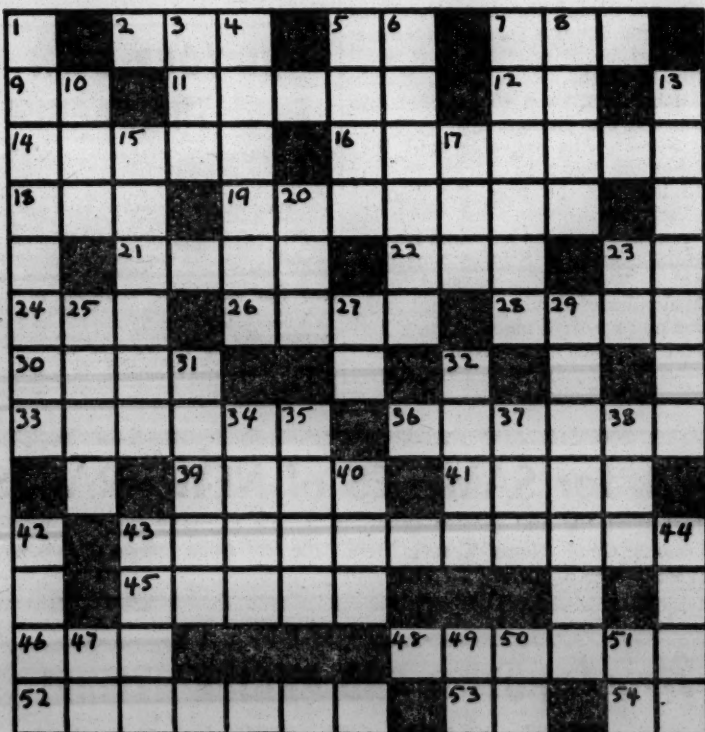
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AR SHALL RISE
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M HOR A BOHAN
H YE GWYN LA
GOOD HERS B C
OUT OF ISRAEL
SHIP AT ER E
ENCHANTMENTS
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Puzzle No. 8



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(Cut along dotted lines)

The Fall of a Preacher

(Continued from page 10)

Jesus looking at him, he felt so condemned that he turned and went away into that spring night to weep. But Peter did not lose his salvation. Scripture never mentions nor hints such a thing. In fact Satan desired to sift him, without hope of damning him. And Jesus said, "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." That saving faith, a committal which had already taken place once and for all, could not be repealed or undone. At least the Lord Jesus kept Peter safe when he was tempted of Satan.

We had just as well face this, that if the Devil could get Peter, he could get anybody else. If Peter had to earn his salvation by faithfulness, then so would all of us have to earn our salvation. And if Peter's grievous sin could damn his soul after he has been under the blood, after he has been made a child of God, after he has a changed heart, then our sins could damn us, too. Remember that "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10), so that even to have respect of persons breaks all the law of God. And if the cursing and swearing and denying of Jesus would lose Peter's salvation, then an idle word or a bad thought or a moment's neglect of prayer would damn all of the rest of us.

No, salvation has to be all of grace, with God saving people who do not deserve it, on the merits of the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ, or there is no salvation for sinners. We cannot discuss in detail here the matter of a Christian's losing salvation. That is not what the Bible is talking about in the story of Peter's backsliding. We are now studying what God's Word says about a

a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.—Luke 22:54-62.

From the above Scripture and others, we see some of the elements in Peter's fall into sin.

1. Peter Was Victim of a Direct Onslaught of Satan

Jesus told Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31). So we know that Satan, the master of demons, a personal Devil who hates God and hates Christians, set out to trap Peter and lead him to sin.

Christians have the solemn warning, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:11, 12). Every Christian needs to put on the whole armour of God and to be strong in the Lord to resist Satan. Peter was the object of

has allowed my poor ministry to do, in so many thousands of cases, would be hated by Satan and attacked."

I remember that the Apostle Paul had "a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan" to buffet him (II Cor. 12:7). Satan used Delilah to trap Samson; he tried to use Potiphar's wife to ruin Joseph. Satan tried to use the king's meat and wine to cause Daniel to forsake his holy vows and clean life and to use the king's idolatrous order to keep Daniel from praying at the open window for fear of the lions' den.

Some twenty odd years ago Dr. Sam Morris was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Stamford, Texas. I was pastor of the Galilean Baptist Church in Dallas. Dr. Morris suggested I should come and preach on Sunday in his pulpit, and then that he and his wife and my wife and I could go out to New Mexico to visit Carlsbad Caverns, thus celebrating our wedding anniversary.

As we drove from Dallas to Stamford we passed through Weatherford and bought one of those large Parker County watermelons and kept it in the car. Then after preaching at Stamford on Sunday we arose early Monday morning to drive out to Carlsbad Caverns.

There had been a rain. I said, "If we can find a dry spot, we will stop and cut that big watermelon." So it was suggested that we take the watermelon over on the ballaster of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad track which ran beside the highway and where, out of the mud, we could sit on the rails and enjoy the melon.

Mrs. Rice sat on the edge of a concrete culvert. The rest of us sat in a row on the rail and ate the heart of that luscious melon. Suddenly, something caused me to turn my head. Was it some almost imperceptible tremor in the rail? Was it the brush of an angel's wing on my cheek? Was it some sweet prompting of the Spirit of God? I turned and saw bearing down upon us a swift passenger train running perhaps 80 or 90 miles an hour on the same track. There was no whistle. I think the engineer never saw us. I seized Brother Morris' arm and called for him to jump. He saw the train and seized Mrs. Morris' arm and as we arose from the track that monster roared by us, missing us only by scant inches!

We stopped and thanked God for His loving care, conscious that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." But I was deeply conscious of a terrible evil presence. I could not see the Old Serpent. Satan was not visible, but I was as conscious of his waves of hate over me as if I had seen a monster with horns and hoofs and pitch-fork, breathing smoke and smelling of brimstone! It seemed as if Satan said to me, "I almost got you! I hate you. I will stop you yet!"

Dr. Sam Morris was then rising to great heights with his "Voice of Temperance" broadcast, which has led over five thousand drunkards to turn to Christ and be saved and has changed countless homes, has encouraged thousands of preachers to speak out against drink, has influenced the votes of hundreds of thousands of people who have voted precincts and counties and states dry. Satan hated Dr. Sam Morris' work and would have slain him.

I was soon to launch out into nation-wide evangelism, with to undertake by God's help, and with such sacrifices as only God knows, and such burden, to bring back mass evangelism to America. Already I had had major campaigns in Texas and Oklahoma cities. Satan hated that work and would have killed me or ruined me.

So Satan had pleaded for the privilege of sifting Peter and he tricked Peter, trapped him, and led him into shameful sin.

Christian, put on the whole armour of God! It was this same man Peter who was inspired to write later, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith..." (I Peter 5:8, 9).

2. The Lord Jesus Knew of Satan's Attack and Permitted It!

Jesus warned Peter, "Satan

hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not..."

Jesus knew about Satan's particular attack on Peter. It seems that Satan must have asked special permission of the Lord Jesus to tempt Peter, and for holy reasons which Peter did not immediately know, Jesus allowed it.

So it was with Job. "Now, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them," we are told. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?" and Satan insisted that God should take away Job's family, house, and substance, and he taunted God that Job "will curse thee to thy face" (Job 1:6, 8, 9, 11).

But with the family, servants, children and flocks and herds and possessions all gone, Job still did not sin. So Satan came again to God and insisted on the privilege of touching Job's body to make him turn from God. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life" (Job 2:6). So Job's body was covered with boils; his wife taunted him that he should curse God and die; and his "friends" came to insist that he had committed some horrible sin and was being punished for his sins.

So it is clear that Satan asks God to be allowed to tempt and try Christians, and that God, in His own wisdom and love, permits the amount and the kind of temptation which He knows will be good for us and for the glory of God.

Oh, thank God that we have the record of Job's temptation and trial. "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy" (James 5:11).

Often Satan in his effort to destroy God's children and God's work is overruled by God. He makes the trial end in His own glory and the good of His people.

It is good to know that Satan is limited by the constant watchfulness of God.

In Gadara two were possessed of devils and when they saw Jesus, these evil spirits cried out of the men, "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29). Demons know that they are destined for the lake of fire. They fear Jesus Christ and know they must obey Him. And so "the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go..." (Matt. 8:31, 32). And so Jesus allowed these demons to take two thousand hogs down into the water of the sea and drown them.

Why? Perhaps because the issue would come clearly before men. Would they rather have just the demon-possessed men clothed and in their right minds, happy with the Lord, or would they rather have their possessions? At any rate Jesus allowed the damage for His own purpose. And so, the prince of devils himself must ask permission when he attacks some Christian. And in God's loving mercy that permission is sometimes granted.

We remember that Joseph's brothers tried to kill him, sold him into slavery. And Joseph at last was able to see this truth and tell them, "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good" (Gen. 50:20). And so, so often as God overcomes the plans of wicked men, for His own glory, so He overcomes the plans of Satan, too, to His glory and to our good.

Let us remember that Peter did not need to sin. Jesus had warned him solemnly, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:40, 41). Peter could have been watchful and prayerful and could have avoided entering into the temptation presented him.

Yes, and we have the plain promise of God, "There hath no temptation taken you but such

as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13). I do not say that the Lord caused Peter's fall, but I say the Lord Jesus permitted the temptation and trial. In knowing all things, He knew that Peter under the circumstances would deny Him, but Peter need not have done so.

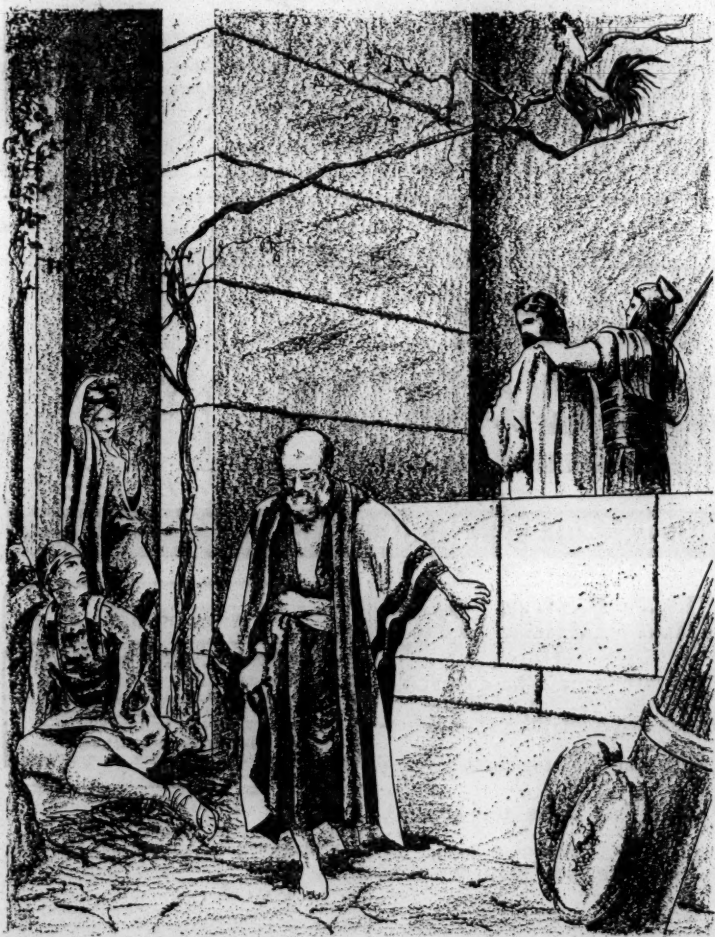
3. Peter Had a Carnal Nature Friendly to Sin

It is bad enough that Satan from the outside attacks a Christian, and fools him and deceives him into sin. But it is a sadder truth that there is still in a Christian a carnal nature which is friendly to sin, and is so susceptible to temptation; It is bad enough to have an enemy battering at the castle gates trying to get in, but it is worse that there is a sly one on the inside, winking at the enemy through the cracks, and ready to be tempted and bribed into opening the doors!

The unconverted man has one nature, the old man, the unregenerate nature. The converted man, born again, still has the old nature, but he has a new nature too. That makes a constant conflict, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17). Paul was conscious of this dual nature, this conflict. He said by divine inspiration, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom. 7:21-25).

Oh, Peter was saved, but he was not saved all over. I am saved, but I am not yet completely saved. It is true that I have eternal life. I am born of God. My sins are forgiven and I am going to Heaven. I have been made a partaker of the divine nature. And the Spirit of God dwells in me so that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. But my hair is getting gray, my teeth are wearing out, my steps are not so spry as those of the vigorous athlete I once was! And sadly I find, as did Paul, "when I would do good, evil is present with me." I have vowed again and again never to

(Continued on next page)



"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."—Luke 22:61, 62.

Christian who falls into sin, loses his joy, brings disgrace on the cause of Christ, loses his testimony, and how that man was restored to fellowship and joy and usefulness as God's anointed preacher!

Peter's sin was terrible sin, but thank God, there is a happy ending to the sad story.

II. The Elements in Peter's Fall

What were the elements that led to Peter's shocking, scandalous backsliding? Let us note carefully the things that had part in Peter's shameful failure, and the breaking of his holy resolves.

Let us read the sad story of Peter's disgrace and sin.

"Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But

direct attack, as God's children often are.

We know that Satan is called "the accuser of our brethren..." which accused them before our God day and night" (Rev. 12:10).

In the Lord's Prayer, the model prayer, the Saviour taught us to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." But the deliverance we are to seek for is not so much a deliverance from evil circumstances as from that evil being, Satan, the evil one.

Once a preacher said to me, "You talk about Satan's opposing God's work and attacking God's workers. I could not say that he bothers me. I am not conscious of direct attack."

I answered, "If you twisted Satan's tail as much as I do, he would bother you! The man whose ministries gets drunkards converted, re-establishes broken homes, and delivers young people from the cursed unbelief of modernism, as God

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The Fall of a Preacher

(Continued from page 11)

do wrong, but I do wrong. I make holy promises about how faithfully I will keep the secret place of prayer, and my Bible study, and the sweet fellowship of God, but I do not always do what I wanted and intended and promised God I would do. You see, I still have the old nature. With an old body I still have the spirit and nature of "the old man." With my mind and heart I serve the law of God, but with my flesh the law of sin, as the Scripture puts it.

A missionary to the Indians won an Indian man to Christ and nurtured him in the Christian faith. But once the Indian came to his teacher greatly troubled to confess the conflicts and temptations that were constantly his. "Two big dogs are fighting in here all the time," he said, pointing to his breast. "One a big black dog and one a white dog. They fight all the time!" The missionary saw the point and asked, "Which dog wins?"

"The one I say sick-em to," said the Indian.

Oh, I say, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" as God's inspired apostle wrote it. And Peter must have felt the same thing.

But we learn of a blessed time of deliverance at the rapture and resurrection, when we will get the completed salvation which now we have only in part. Romans 8: 21-23 tells us:

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Oh, how happy we will be when this old carnal nature is redeemed, adopted, and made perfect, fit for that new nature which is already born of God.

Peter fell into sin partly because of the leanings of the old nature, the taint that is in us all. He was susceptible to sin because he was a fallen man, and although he was saved, he still had the weakness of the flesh.

4. Overpowering Circumstances, Sorrow, and Discouragement Contributed to Peter's Sin

I have said before that Peter's sin was scandalous, disgraceful, and it was. But it is only fair to say that he faced a series of circumstances that were overwhelming. First, he did not fully understand why Jesus had given Himself up to die. He had plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed by one of them, that He would be arrested, tried before the Sanhedrin, and then condemned to die. Peter in shocked unbelief rebuked Jesus, saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." But Jesus said unto Peter, "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Matt. 16:22, 23).

Peter was heartbroken that one of the intimate twelve should betray Jesus. He was heartsick that Jesus had planned and expected to die tomorrow in the most cruel fashion! It is true that Peter slept when Jesus was praying, but it is revealing that the Scripture says that Jesus "found them sleeping for sorrow" (Luke 22:45). Peter was overwhelmed with the sorrow that seemed to have no remedy, with the discouragement from what seemed utter failure, and with the wreck of all his hopes and all his plans to serve God!

I grant that Peter ought to have had more faith. He ought to have understood something about the crucifixion, the resurrection, as it seemed Mary of Bethany had when she anointed Christ for His burial. But Peter was a brokenhearted, discouraged man and he slept as a whipped child or a child taken away from its mother may sob himself to sleep. Peter slept for sorrow!

And again when the multitude came to take Jesus, Peter took

the sword (had not Jesus told him to bring it?) and arose to defend the Saviour with valor and with sincere love. He cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. But Jesus had Peter put up his sword, and He touched the ear and made it whole! Peter's strength, his courage seemed to go for nothing. Peter had no way out!

Before we condemn Peter with too much self-assurance, let us remember that he had the kind of temptation which we, by God's mercy, probably never had.

Before I speak too scornfully of the sot drunkard, let me remember that I have never had his temptation. I grew up in a Christian home. I never knew more than the taste of a toddy, or more than a disgusting swallow of near beer. Had I had the rearing, or the associates, or the social standards of another set, I, too, might have been a drunkard, but for the grace of God!

Oh, the cards were surely stacked against Peter! Satan, the enemy of our souls, pulled all the wires and took advantage of all the sad circumstances when he was allowed to sift Peter!

Who is there strong enough to meet Satan? None of us, except as we prevail with God in prayer and in constant watchfulness and have God's mighty help! So then I, who have sinned so often and so grievously, feel the deepest sympathy for Peter, overwhelmed, discouraged, sleepless so long, not allowed to use his strength, and his courage discounted and his loving protest unheeded. I say the circumstances of which Satan was allowed to take advantage had a part in Peter's fall.

5. Peter's Lack of Prayer Left Him an Easy Victim for Satan's Attack

When Jesus arose from prayer and found his disciples "sleeping for sorrow," He said unto them, "Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation" (Luke 22:45, 46). But in Matthew 26:40, 41 we find that Jesus particularly "saith unto Peter, What could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation..." So Jesus was particularly warning Peter.

And it is clear from this warning that Peter had resources he did not use. Peter could have had strength to resist temptation, had he sought it. Peter could have prayed so that he would not have fallen into the temptation.

That is the teaching too of the wonderful passage in Ephesians 6, where we are warned "to put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:12). After naming the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the Gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, then the Holy Spirit insisted that the armour of God that will make us able to stand against the wiles of the Devil includes "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication..." (Eph. 6:18).

An old song says "Satan trembles when he sees The weakest saint upon his knees."

At any rate, Satan knows that persistent prayer, faithful watching in prayer, is the way to defeat Satan. The Christian is not left without resources. All the resources of God are at his hand, if he but holds on to God. No Christian has to sin.

Alas, Peter was self-confident. When Jesus had warned him of the coming temptation, "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." And then again he said, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee" (Matt. 26:33, 35). So Peter slept while Jesus prayed. He was ready to use his sword, but he had not taken time to make sure that he was forearmed against Satan's assault. And then when temptation arose he fell.

I heard the late P. W. Philpott, once pastor of the famous Moody Church, Chicago, tell of a black-

smith he knew who was wonderfully saved, but still had to constantly watch a violent temper. One time a quarrel arose in the church and a meeting of Christian men was called one night to talk and pray about the problem and if possible settle the quarrel. Dr. Philpott and big Bill went to the meeting. A mean and suspicious man made hot charges against the big blacksmith, reviled him, threatened him. Dr. Philpott said, "I was afraid of what might happen. I knew the violent temper big Bill had." But the blacksmith remained calm and kindly, and at long last the little fellow who charged him and blamed him was sorry and apologized, and peace was made.

As they walked home that night Dr. Philpott asked the burly blacksmith, "How did you do it, Bill? I know the trouble you have with your temper, and the man was so mean and unkind, it seemed you almost had a right to be angry. How did you hold your temper and remain so calm and kindly?"

And the big man answered, "I was prayed up! I got ready for the meeting by waiting on God and seeking His face. So I had help when I needed it."

Oh, then let every Christian beware and "watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Peter failed for lack of prayer. And I daresay that nearly all of our failures, all of our sins, are because we did not pray as we ought. A Christian can have help, and he ought to seek God's face daily to have it.

6. Peter Sat Down by the Wrong Fire, in Bad Company

We are told that when they led Jesus into the high priest's house, "Peter followed afar off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them." It was there by that fire, surrounded by the enemies of Christ, by the servants of the high priest and by the soldiers who would nail Jesus to the cross, that Peter was overwhelmed and so tempted. He denied that he knew Jesus and lied and cursed! It was

in the wee small hours of the morning with the early spring coldness in the night. We are told, "And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself" (John 18:18).

Then again, we are told, "And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself" (John 18:25).

I have no doubt that the exhaustion, the chill of sleeping on the ground in the cold Garden of Gethsemane, and now the shock and depression of Jesus' arrest made Peter feel the cold all the more. But Peter had no business there warming himself by the Devil's fire, keeping company with those who hated Jesus and would soon kill Him! Another disciple, we suppose it was John, was known unto the high priest and so he gained entrance for himself and Peter. But I suppose John stood near to Jesus and thus no doubt identified himself. But Peter sat by the fire to one side, with the enemies of Christ. It was not so hard for Peter to deny that he knew Jesus, for he was already avoiding identification by associating with the servants of the high priest and officers.

I do not mean that Peter intended to deny Jesus. No, he had made holy vows, and he meant to keep them. But when one consents to wrong company, then he has already sealed his lips against protest. A preacher may run with modernists, but may say, "They shall put no strings on my message." No, he has already limited his own message when he seeks the association and fellowship of those who are enemies of Christ and the Bible.

Marrying heathen princesses led Solomon in his old age to be an idolater. Falling in love and keeping company with Delilah sapped away Samson's strength and made him putty in her evil hands. Living down in Sodom and making his money out of association with the wicked and calling them brethren led to Lot's ruin. No man ever did run with evil company without being influenced by them. "Blessed is the man that walketh

not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." (Ps. 1:1).

Once a drunkard was saved in a Sam Jones revival campaign. After years of long habit, when that man went to town, he tied his horse at the hitching rack in front of the saloon. Sam Jones told him, "If you are going to live a Christian life, you will have to seek a new hitching rack." The man who ties his horse in front of the saloon will soon be going in the saloon. The man who warms his hands by the Devil's fire will soon be falling to the Devil's temptation. So bad company had a part in Peter's shameful and scandalous backsliding.

Next week this sermon will be continued. Look for "Peter Restored From Backsliding." Be sure that sinning Christians read these two messages.

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When Father Prays

When father prays he doesn't use The words the preacher does; There's different things for different days, But mostly it's for us.

When father prays the house is still, His voice is slow and deep. We shut our eyes, the clock ticks loud, So quiet we must keep.

He prays that we may be good boys, And later on good men; And then we squirm, and think we won't Have any quarrels again.

You'd never think, to look at Dad, He once had tempers, too. I guess if father needs to pray, We youngsters surely do.

Sometimes the prayer gets very long And hard to understand, And then I wiggle up quite close, And let him hold my hand.

I can't remember all of it, I'm little yet, you see; But one thing I cannot forget, My father prays for me!

—Author Unknown.

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